



Annual Narrative Progress Report 2020

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Cover Photo: Selected beneficiaries are waiting to receive emergency support for COVID-19 (Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP)

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

a2i	Access to Information (UNDP project with government)
AAB	Action Aid Bangladesh
APBN	Airport Armed Police Battalion
ARRRC	Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
ASK	Ain O Shalish Kendro
BRTA	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority
BTEB	Bangladesh Technical Education Board
CCP	Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar Project
CDA	Conflict and Development Analysis
CfW	Cash for work
CiC	Camp-in-charge
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DWA	District Women's Affairs
ESDO	Eco Social Development Organization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GBV	Gender-based violence
GiHA WG	Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group
INGO	International non-governmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
JNUS	Jago Nari Unnayan Shangstha
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
UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against women
VSLAs	Villa Saving and Loans Associations
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 includes 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 to strengthening social cohesion.

This annual narrative progress report covers the period January–December 2020. During the reporting period, the project had to suspend field-level activities for more than 6 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The achieved quantitative figures as of 31 December 2020 are:

- 850 Rohingya women and girls, the majority of whom 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.
- 1050 Youths of Teknaf and Ukhiya enrolled for skills development training and 286 completed their training during the reporting period
- 5562 households were reached with emergency COVID-19 support those include cash and hygiene kits

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 a 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 are required to re-establish their good relationship with the new UNOs, RRRC and CiCs and re-start the conversations that 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 faces 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 have led to widespread perceptions of unfair or preferential treatment because of the 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 that 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 that 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 the 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. A total of 3000 community members will be engaged in cash for work schemes, while more 2500¹ youths will be provided skills training on demanding trades. A thousand (1000) Rohingya women at the camps will be provided skills training. Through, cohesion initiatives the project will cover a large number of indirect beneficiaries.



Photo: Women and Men are working in community infrastructure development work (Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP)

¹ This is revised number for adjusting repurposed budget for COVID 19 response.

III. Results

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

Output 1: Economic Resilience

Activity 1: Skills Training: Host Communities

During the reporting period, 1050 youths from Teknaf and Ukhiya were enrolled in different training courses. Skills training initiatives started through the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Cox's Bazar and also with an NGO partner. There were district and Upazila level consultations at the project location to get suggestions from local NGOs, organizations working on skills development, private sector job providers (hotels) to start with a common understanding of the work. Meanwhile, the NGO partner UTTARAN conducted a skills prioritization exercise in consultation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), local government officials and local and NGOs working on skills development. UTTARAN also analysed upcoming mega government projects to understand the capacity needs in the region. Following trades were prioritized for training:

1. Poultry rearing
2. Candle Making
3. Cap Making
4. Fishing Net Making
5. Light Vehicle Driving
6. Block batik and screen printing
7. Electric house wiring and Solar system.
8. Electronics and Mobile Phone servicing.
9. Industrial Sewing Machine operation and Tailoring
10. Beauty Care
11. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
12. Petrol and Diesel Engine Mechanic.
13. Food and Beverage Service
14. House Keeping and Laundry
15. Food and Beverage Production
16. Computer & ICT skills

UTTARAN set up 5 training centres in the following locations:

No. center	Upazila	Name of Training Center	Location
1	Ukhiya	Uttaran Technical Training Center, Rajapalong	Ghilatolipara, Patabari, Ukhiya,
2		Uttaran Technical Training Center, Palongkhali	Adjacent to Jamtali Market, Palongkhali, Ukhiya
3	Teknaf	Uttaran Technical Training Center, Whykong	Nayabazar, Whykong, Teknaf,
4		Uttaran Technical Training Center, Hnila	Purbo Pankhali, Hnila, Teknaf,
5		Uttaran Technical Training Center, Baharchara	South Shilkhali, Baharchara, Teknaf

Training participants were selected with the support of Union Parishad officials, who supported to identify the youths who are in deem need of skills development. Some local government and private training centres were also engaged to organize skills training.

Activity 1.2: Skills Training: Rohingya

Within the reporting period, **850** women and girls benefitted from livelihoods skill training in sewing, embroidery and handicrafts technics. These include **286** adolescent girls and **564** women. **88** Rohingya women and girls (20 adolescent girls and 68 women) generated BDT 1,050,000 particularly from mask production within October-December 2020. The average income for adolescent girls was BDT 7,317 and for women was BDT 13,289 within this period. All trainings have been provided at the five Multi-Purpose Women Centres. 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 engages them in a social activity, wherein they learn skills together, as such, these activities also function as psycho-social support. The skills chosen are as per interest from the women, girls, and as per research findings.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March, the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) issued directives that put restrictions on livelihoods/self-reliance, education and other overall group activities and services in the camps. However, to ensure the continued operation of the five MPWCs in camps, where the livelihoods skill training activities take place, we adopted alternative approaches and introduced key measures to ensure COVID-19 prevention. As part of the response, handwashing facilities within the MPWC premises, and distributing hygiene materials package (soaps, towel, masks, etc.) among staff, volunteers and community people have been done. Through our partnerships with Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB) and BRAC, all five UN Women’s Multi-Purpose Women Centres (MPWCs) in camps 3, 4, 4 extension, 5, 18 remained open and Rohingya women and girls continued skills training activities.

Furthermore, the lockdown measures introduced to prevent COVID-19 had a negative impact on livelihoods activities such as skills development and distribution of materials and equipment for production, which were restricted in the camps during this period.



Photo: Masks are made by the Rohingya women and girls (Nadira Islam/ UN Women)

In order to ensure Rohingya women and adolescent girls had a continued income source during this time, UN Women in consultation with Action Aid Bangladesh, and BRAC identified mask production as an adaptation activity for income generation for Rohingya women and girls. Rohingya women leaders who received training in sewing have received sewing machines and material for engaging their network members in mask production. The masks produced were in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline. The coordination role of UN Women has significantly contributed to the improved collaboration of all UN Agencies engaged in mask distribution and therefore enhanced containment of spreading of COVID-19 in all camps. From May 2020, Rohingya women and girls produced approximately **90,061** pieces of reusable cloth masks in UN Women's MPWCs. The majority of produced masks have been purchased by UN Agencies and distributed among different stakeholders including RRRC, Camp in Charges (CIC), Camp management staff, Bangladesh Police and Rohingya community people. Through mask production, **88** Rohingya women and adolescent girls were benefited.

Women at MPWCs do also produce other products ranging from clothes to handcrafts. In order to enhance quality and marketability of products made by Rohingya women and adolescent girls, UN Women hired a product development and designer consultant who prepared catalogue of new product designs with Rohingya women in coordination with UN Women and partners BRAC and AAB. The Product Development Consultant is enhancing sewing and embroidery skills of women at MPWCs to upgrade their products quality and competitiveness on inside camp and local markets.

Yeasmin Akhter

(20 years, Whykong, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar)

"I have completed 3-month long of basic training on Industrial Sewing Machine Operation and Tailoring course from Uttaran Technical Training Center supported by UNDP. Now I am participating in an apprenticeship opportunity arranged by Uttaran. There was a time, when I couldn't find meaning in my life due hardship in our lives; now, I feel like I can do something for myself and for my family. I have joined apprenticeship to learn work better and here I have learned a lot of new things. I have already received several orders for making clothes, which I have cut here, sewed and delivered to the customer as I do not have any machine of my own. I have earned some money, which gives me some hope towards life. Now my dream is to buy a machine from which I can earn money by working regularly.



Photo: Hasibur Rahman/Uttaran

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

During the reporting period, Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO), the NGO partner for carrying out the activity has trained 3000 selected beneficiaries for cash for work schemes on occupational health and safety, community infrastructure development and rehabilitation and on COVID-19 safety. Beneficiaries were engaged in a half day training to learn on the scheme they will be working, what are the tasks in different steps to complete the schemes, what are the benefits the community will get after implementation of the scheme. The training also covered the possible risks for the workers during implementation of the schemes and how to minimize the risk; there was also discussion on proper use of safety materials they will be given during implementation of the schemes like helmet, vest, boots. There were separate discussions with beneficiaries on COVID safety, which took place at household level and during distribution of emergency support.

Activity 1.4: Support to sustainable long-term employment opportunities

The establishment of Women's Market in camp 5 contributed to the promotion of artisanship of Rohingya women. The construction of women's market was completed in February 2020. In total, 32 shops were created in that market place e.g. beauty parlour, tailoring, grocery, dry food, handicraft, sweets, vegetables etc. During the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, there was a number of events organized within the Women's Market premises including a fair organized displaying product (clothes, masks, bags, handicrafts, naksi-kantha) made by Rohingya women to showcase their artisanship and promote their participation in skills development activities, as a part of the launch of the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence and marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November 2020.



Photo: Opening of 16 days campaign against gender based violence at UN Women's Women's Market Premises. (Khaled Arafat Ahmed/UN Women)

The fair was inaugurated by Camp in Charges (CiCs) with participation from Rohingya women leaders, representatives of partner agencies along with UN Women.

After the initial assessment of women's market construction, further improvement and extension works were done with further approval from RRRC. This includes the inclusion of a dedicated training room on the premise, cementing water tank and expanding the area. Partner volunteers are conducting outreach activities to promote the women's market and encourage community women to participate in market activities and operate shops. Women entrepreneurs selling at Women's market will undergo entrepreneurship training on basic accounting, budgeting, financial literacy, business planning and small businesses management, marketing and market linkages The Women's Market is approved by Refugee Repatriation and Rehabilitation Commissioner (RRRC) to start the operations from January 2021.

Output Indicator	Target for 2020	Indicator Status/Achievement
1.1 Percent of trainees a) finding employment in the sector in which they received skill development support b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	25%	0 It was expected that training participants will get jobs after accomplishing training courses . During the reporting period, only one month long training courses were completed and participants preferred entrepreneurship over jobs. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the first quarter of 2021. Tools are developed and field tested to gather information.
1.2 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 longer training courses were not completed by the reporting period. It is expected participants of 3 month long training courses will be in jobs in the second quarter of 2021 and A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the last quarter of 2021
1.3 Percent of trainees	70%	0

Output Indicator	Target for 2020	Indicator Status/Achievement
a) with a reduction in their multi-dimensional poverty b) disaggregated (%) by sex.		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
1.4 Number of women self-reported to benefit from capacity enhancement and skills development training	500	850
1.5 Percentage of trained women started income generating/entrepreneurial activities to reduce economic vulnerability and protection risks	10.35%	

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
1.1.1 Number of beneficiaries receiving: a) skills and leadership development training, b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	a) 1900 enrolled and 1134 completed during reporting period b) Female 1389 and Male 511 enrolled, 1134 (all female) completed training
1.1.2 Percent of beneficiaries who a) found employment six months after receiving skills development training, b) disaggregated by sex	0 Due to the pandemic, the training courses were suspended for more than 6 months. Only limited number of trades were completed (i.e. cap making, poultry, candle making, tailoring). Training graduates were entrepreneurs and did not look for job. Progress is expected by the end of second quarter in 2021. Tools are developed and field tested to gather information.
1.1.3: Number of host community women received livelihood and business development skills training to protect and start rebuilding livelihood assets	699 enrolled and 284 completed during the reporting period

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
1.2.1 Number of beneficiaries receiving: a) resilience and life skills training, b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	850 Rohingya women and girls, including 286 adolescent girls and 564 women, received livelihoods/self-reliance training, specifically on sewing, embroidery, handicrafts and food-production, through the five Multi-Purpose Women Centres. All women
1.2.2 Percent of beneficiaries who a) found source of income in camps, b) disaggregated by sex	11% All Women
1.2.3: Number of refugee women and girls received basic literacy, leadership, life and livelihood skills training	850 Rohingya women and girls, including 286 adolescent girls and 564 women, received livelihoods/self-reliance training, specifically on sewing, embroidery, handicrafts and food-production, through the five Multi-Purpose Women Centres.
1.3.1 a) Number of trained skilled workers employed through infrastructure rehabilitation schemes b) disaggregated by sex	82 All male
1.3.2 Number of wage workers employed through infrastructure rehabilitation schemes	3000 (1173 Female and 1827 male)
1.3.3 number of person days of short term employment created	32357
1.4.1 Number of trained skilled people who have completed apprenticeships	0 Due to the pandemic, the training courses were suspended for more than 6 months. Only limited number of trades were completed (i.e. cap making, poultry, candle making, tailoring). Training graduates were entrepreneurs and did not look for apprenticeship opportunity
1.4.2 Number of people who have found jobs through job placement	0 Graduates of training courses with 3 month duration will be supported to get job through this project. Such courses will be accomplished in the first quarter of 2021. Hence the results will be visible in the second quarter of 2021
1.4.3 Number of people who have found jobs themselves	0 It is expected that graduates will start looking for job

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
	after accomplishing the training accredited by Bangladesh Technical Education Board or Bangladesh Road Transport Authority. Such training will be completed in February 2021, so results are expected in second quarter of 2021 and onwards.
1.4.4: Number of people who have received start up kits	<p>0 (host community)</p> <p>Start-up kits were not provided in 2020 as training was suspended for 6 months due to the pandemic. Kits will be distributed from the quarter 1 of 2021.</p> <p>126 Rohingya women and girls</p> <p>18 adolescent girls and 108 women received livelihood materials support in forms of start-up grants kit particularly on homestead gardening, handicrafts, block printing, embroidery, tailoring and dress making and mask production.</p>
1.4.5: Number of people who have received cash grant	<p>0</p> <p>Cash grants were not provided in 2020 as training suspended for 6 months due to the pandemic. Grants will be distributed from the quarter 1 of 2021.</p>
1.4.6 Number of wage workers who have found employment with self employed beneficiaries	<p>3000</p> <p>(1173 Female and 1827 male)</p>
1.4.7: Number of small businesses sustained for more than 6 months	<p>0</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, the training courses were suspended for more than 6 months. Only limited number of trades were completed (i.e. cap making, poultry, candle making, tailoring). Training graduates started their own business and cooperatives at the end of the year. Proper assessment can be done in the second quarter of 2021</p>

Summary of progress:

During the reporting period, UNDP and UN Women started skills training and cash for work schemes (for host community) and there were good progress against most indicators.

Due to COVID-19 situation, the works at the field level were suspended for more than 6 months. The progress against some outputs were not achieved as per the plan.

Output 2: Social Cohesion

Activity 2.1 Support to Women Peacebuilders and Groups

To support the formation of women's groups among the Rohingya and the host community, and to support other community actors on peacebuilding and social cohesion, UN Women's partner, Ain O Shalish Kendro (ASK), formed **6** Women's Groups, each consisting of **20** members totalling **120** members. **4** orientation programmes were organized during the reporting period for these groups. by 120 participants in which issues of child marriage, conflict resolution, women's leadership, and empowerment were discussed. ASK drafted training modules on women's leadership, social cohesion and conflict resolution based on technical inputs and resources from UN Women and roll-out through Jago Nari Unnayon Shangstha JNUS and local women's networks in the host community from January 2021.



Photo: Host community women leaders discuss social cohesion (Khaled Arafat Ahmed/UN Women)

Approximately 1824 people/households were reached to provide awareness information on COVID-19. Apart from that to respond to COVID-19, 4000 masks were produced till December by 12 women artisans in regard to COVID-19 outbreak. ASK, through JNUS, distributed these 4000 masks to 1,000 host community families in Rajapalong, along with hygiene materials. ASK/JNUS engaged two host community women volunteers to conduct community outreach and awareness-raising on COVID-19 prevention for 1,200 households.

While ASK/JNUS focused on women's groups in the host community during this reporting period, linked to this same activity, UN Women continued regular consultation meetings and overall engagement with the Rohingya women leaders umbrella network² in the camps to promote Rohingya women's participation and decision making, including in the COVID-19 response and preparedness efforts to highlight and address their concerns, demands and advocacy messages. Before the outbreak of the pandemic in Cox's Bazar, UN Women convened this umbrella network of Rohingya women leaders in January and February to have strategic discussions on the situation for women and girls in the camps and consultations to identify key issues and plans for joint action and advocacy. In the regular umbrella network meeting on 3rd of March, at camp 4 MPWC smaller groups were formed to develop camp-wide strategies to address the network members identified key gender issues³. With the outbreak of COVID-19, UN Women continued regular consultation meetings and overall engagement with the Rohingya women leaders umbrella network as well as other efforts to promote women's participation and decision making in the COVID-19 response and preparedness efforts to highlight and address their concerns, demands and advocacy messages. This included developing an Advocacy Brief "Rohingya Women Speak Up: Concerns, Demands and Solutions"⁴ prepared based on consultations with Rohingya women leaders, CSOs and volunteers across 13 camps through the UN Women Gender Field Officers.

Activity 2.2: Local Mediator Training

This activity did not start during the reporting period. It was expected to start the activity followed by the Conflict and Development Analysis, which was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic. The findings of the analysis and mitigation measures would be helpful to chalk out the contents of the mediator training. The work will start in 2021.

Activity 2.3: Inter and Intra-Faith Leadership & Dialogue

This activity did not start during the report period. Conflict and Development Analysis will mark out the major challenges at the community level to strengthen peace and stability; which will also determine possible mitigation measures. As the analysis process is postponed until 3rd

² This network has 50 members through the support of the project. Shanti Mohila led by Hamida, Rohingya Women's Welfare Society led by Razia Sultana, Rohingya Women's Empowerment and Advocacy Network led by Chekufa, the Rohingya Women for Justice and Peace Network led by Afroza, Education and Wisdom Development for Rohingya Women led by Minara, Rohingya Women Development Forum led by Minara, are all Rohingya women-led self-mobilised groups that are a part of the network. Furthermore, are engaged with five Rohingya Women Volunteer Groups (established through UN Women MPWCs) as well as the elected women leaders (two in Camp 4 extension and two in Kutupalong registered camp) are also members.

³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/ru/operations/bangladesh/document/rohingya-women-leaders-umbrella-network-meeting-3rd-march-2020>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/rohingya-women-speak-covid-19-concerns-demands-and-solutions>

quarter of 2021, the training did not start. However, measures were taken to start the training by 3rd quarter of 2021 based on the findings of other UNDP projects working on peace and stability.



Hazrat Ali (62) is a participant of cash for work schemes in Hangoghona, Rahapalong Union. Earlier, he was a small farmer but currently, he is unable to work at the agricultural land. Through this involvement as a CfW worker, he can contribute to the family income partially.

“I thought, I have become a liability to my family. This work is allowing me to still support my family and earn respect”- Hazrat Ali

Photo: Hazrat Ali supporting cash for work scheme in his locality to rehabilitate a mud road. (Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP)

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. However the process was suspended in 2020 and expected to complete in 2021.

<i>Output Indicator</i>	<i>Target for 2020</i>	<i>Indicator Status/Achievement</i>
2.1 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 in mid 2021
2.2. Number of community members who a) report a better understanding of peacebuilding concepts b) disaggregated (%) by	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 third quarter of 2021

Output Indicator	Target for 2020	Indicator Status/Achievement
sex.		
2.3 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 last quarter of 2021
2.4 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.
2.5 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	14 dialogues were organized with the Rohingya women and host community women leaders (10 with Rohingya women leaders umbrella network and 4 with host community women's groups).

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
2.1.1 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 the completion of training courses in the last quarter of 2021.
2.1.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of a training session	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after the completion of training courses in the last quarter of 2021.

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
when compared to a test administered at the end	
2.1.3 Number of female beneficiaries attending training sessions or discussions	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after the completion of training courses in 2 the last quarter of 021.
2.1.4 No of women's support group formed as a safe forum for women to share their concerns and needs	6 Women Groups were formed each consisting of 20 members.
2.2.1 Number of recipients of a) mediator training, b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after the completion of training courses in the last quarter of 2021.
2.2.2 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 the completion of training courses in the last quarter of 2021.
2.2.3 Percent of beneficiaries who state that they have used these mediation skills "frequently" or "very frequently" six months after being trained.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in the last quarter of 2021.
2.3.1 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 end of 2021 after the completion of training courses.
2.3.2 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 end of 2021 after the completion of training courses.
2.3.3 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 the completion of training courses in the first quarter of 2021.
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 were some progresses against one indicator, but most indicators are dependent on other activities and output one, the progress of the output was not fully achieved as planned for 2020. Some of the indicators were also not applicable for the reporting period. Better results are expected in 2021.

nCOVID-19 Response:

As the Novel Coronavirus (nCOVID-19) spread in an unpredictable manner during the reporting period, it presented a growing risk to all communities regardless of their rural or urban status. Due to the pandemic, regular community development work by government and non-government agencies were disrupted. Socially marginalized people and low-income groups started facing huge challenges to maintain their livelihood. Global Affairs Canada kindly agreed to repurpose part of the project budget to carry out emergency support to the project beneficiaries. Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar Project (CCP) has been working with very marginalized population in Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas. CCP's project participants comprised of low-income groups, women, indigenous communities, persons with disability. The pandemic challenged their subsistence and they are also not getting proper information on preventing themselves from getting any exposure to the virus. The project covered 5562 participants in two phases in 3 Unions (Baharchara, Hnila and Whykong) in Teknaf Upazila and 2 Unions (Rajapalong and Palongkhali) in Ukhiya Upazila. A Standard Operating Procedure was developed to implement the plan for emergency support (please see annex).

Participants Selection Criteria:

Following points were considered to leave no one behind:

- Poor women, women-headed households, widowed women
- Households having the person with disabilities
- Household with people over 60 years of age
- Ethnic minorities
- Religious minorities
- Households not covered under other similar hygiene and food assistance package or participants are not receiving government social SafetyNet allowance, Long term grant, or asset grant from the government or any other agencies.

National Identity Card (NID) would be the key document for verification of participants. In selected cases Registered Birth Registration Card (online) was allowed.

Verification and Finalization of Participants:

- Recipients has been finalized with support of Union Parishads considering the above point for identifying poorest households

- Created a database with NID and verify with UNOs office
- Coordinated with UNDP projects in Cox's Bazar
- Coordinated with WASH and Food Security Sectors

Support Specifications and Modality:

From a quick assessment through partner agency it was found that adequate food supply is present in the local market, which allows different options to the beneficiaries if they have cash. Each participant has received BDT 3500 for meeting their livelihood needs and hygiene kits (equivalent to approximate BDT 700) directly to ensure availability of the products. A detailed report is available in Annex.



Photo: Mahbudul Hasan/UNDP

“It is the 12th day after my son’s birth, and I am here to collect emergency support because we are passing through critical times due to COVID-19. I hope to buy fruits and vegetables for my family and me.”

– Ayesha Begum, a Bangladeshi mother, living in Teknaf.

She is one of many vulnerable Bangladeshi families living in the host community in Teknaf and Ukhiya whose livelihoods have been impacted by the COVID-19 situation. UNDP supported the affected families with cash grants and hygiene kits, among other relief items.

Leave no one behind:

The project significantly considered the key principles of Sustainable Development Goals on leaving no one behind. Project covers, both Rohingya refugee women and girls and the host community for leadership building and economic emancipation. The project has been also working with religious (Buddhist and Hindu) and ethnic minorities (Chakma and Tonchongya) in its cash for work schemes and skill development training. Cash for work schemes also involved persons with disabilities. Project is ensured a good ratio of women participants from the host community in skill development training; whereas all training participants in the camps are women. 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. In the subsequent period of the project, women will be encouraged to participate in nontraditional trades for livelihood development.

Despite the increased vulnerabilities and being disproportionately affected by the gendered impacts of COVID-19, Rohingya women and girls have been instrumental in implementing COVID-19 response and prevention activities on the ground. Women-led community outreach, women's participation in community representation, women's networks and self-organized groups, and women volunteers have been pivotal in reaching women and girls in the Rohingya camps. The initiatives are taken up by the project in engaging trained women in the production of reusable masks, and community outreach volunteers for information-dissemination on COVID-19, as well as providing support to similar response efforts by self-mobilised women's groups, has been considered as critical step in showcasing them as first responders; and later these initiatives were replicated by other agencies operating in the camps including WFP, IOM and UNHCR.

Kanti Tanchangya is a 63-year-old woman living in the hills at Whykhong Union of Teknaf Upazila. Her family survives on basic agriculture and daily wages as labourers. She says, *"After the lockdown, it was tough for my family to get enough food, but we can now buy food with the money given to us by UNDP."*

Photo: Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP



Murad Ali (38) was a transport worker; after an accident, his physical ability to work has changed. Before the pandemic, he used to make small furniture and decoration pieces with canes and bamboos. But his business is currently stalled as there is no sale.

He walked 6.5 kilometers in muddy and hilly walkways to reach Dargarbil GPS to collect emergency support provided by UNDP.

Photo: Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP

IV. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges:

- 1) The COVID-19 outbreak led to restrictions, introduced by the RRRC and the DC in Cox's Bazar, which delayed most planned activities in the camps and at host communities.

Mitigation Measure: The project workplan was revised focusing on activities that could not only contribute to COVID-19 responses but also support the preparatory work of the project.

- 2) The changes in the political and security situation in Cox's Bazar, (i.e. transfer and/or replacement of the RRRC, a number of CiCs)

Mitigation Measure: Required UNDP to re-establish working relationships and restart dialogue for necessary approvals.

- 3) As identified in the Rapid Gender Analysis on the impact of COVID-19⁵, there has been a significant increase in all forms of GBV during the reporting period including kidnapping, abductions, polygamy, child marriage, trafficking, intimate partner violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment, especially of women leaders and volunteers.

Mitigation Measures: Project coordinated with other protection actors to develop a more targeted advocacy campaign to address the issues through community engagement and formation of community groups for awareness-raising, especially with men, boys, and religious leaders, as well as through the strengthening the capacity of APBNs, CiCs, Majhees, women's CSOs and leaders, and other key actors. UN Women has also developed a more comprehensive and participatory community-based complaint and feedback mechanism which will be rolled out over the course of 2021.

- A. The importance and benefits of a multisectoral approach to women's empowerment; and integrated services in the context of humanitarian crisis is further highlighted as a lesson that UN Women will continue to advocate for through the GiHA Working Group.

- 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 in the host community are expected to stay in the private

⁵ Please see: <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/shadows-pandemic-gendered-impact-covid-19-rohingya-and-host-communities-october>

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 the 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 the host community and Rohingya women were observed during a baseline survey conducted in 2019, as well as the 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 and early warning of any social challenges. Further work on the community cohesion with host communities may strengthen cultural bondage and improve the situation.

V. NEXT STEPS

For the remaining period of the project, UNDP and UN Women will focus on achieving results by completing the planned activities:

- Accomplish skill development training for at least 1450 host community youths and 850 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
- 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 and as per approval from RRRC. If the 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. The potential solutions are as follows:
 - Introducing rental/borrowing system where the women, fulfilling certain criteria, could take the necessary equipment like sewing machine; small packages of lesser value like tools, materials package could be distributed as well.
 - Upgrading the vocational training in marketable skills within and outside refugee camps
 - Adoption of good practice models like “purchase for progress”, or “Growing in camp economies” while strengthening the market linkage between refugees and Host Community whereby UN Women will encourage other UN Agencies, IPs and DPs to buy from refugee women.
- Rohingya women and adolescent girls who received livelihoods skill training will be engaged in entrepreneurship and financial management training to prepare them for engaging in the women’s market space. The women’s market space will be officially inaugurated and operational engaging women entrepreneurs in 32 shops.
- Rohingya women will be trained in financial education and be mobilised to form saving groups using Villa Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs) model.
- Skill training activities will be further refined based on new designs developed by product development and designer consultant who prepared catalogue of new product designs in coordination with UN Women and partners BRAC and AAB, and in consultation with Rohingya women and adolescent girls, in order to enhance quality and marketability.
- Social-cohesion activities will be further expanded through partnership with ASK which leads the women peace-builder network activities together with the local women’s rights organisation Jago Nari Unnayan Sangsta.

VI Interim Financial Status

A total of CAD 5,000,000 was received from the Global Affairs Canada by 2020 in two instalments, which was equivalent to US\$ 3,767,898. The total expenditure is US\$ 1,109,297 for the year 2020 and the cumulatively expenditure of the project is US\$ 1,302,332 (for the period Dec 2018 to Dec 2020). During the reporting period, US\$ 280,373 was spent by the responsible party “UN Women”.

UNDP ensured the presence of Union Parishad Chair/Member at each distribution point for increased ownership and accountability.

Chair of the Baharchara Union Parishad, Teknaf briefing about emergency support from UNDP to the recipients.

Photo: Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP



Beneficiaries for emergency support were selected with the support of community volunteers and Union Parishads. During distribution, a beneficiary card (shared beforehand), a token (shared on the day before the distribution), and NID/BRC were checked to ensure the presence of actual beneficiaries.

Photo: Mahtabul Hakim/ UNDP

Annexes:

1. COVID-19 response published in ISCG newsletter



[Final] Cox's Bazar
Update #12 - COVID

2. ISCG Tweet on COVID-19 response of the project



ISCG Tweets on
CCP .docx

3. Story on mask production by Rohingya women trained by the project

UN Women and Rohingya women at the frontline of COVID-19 response

4. COVID-19 response report



UNDP-CCP_nCOVID
-19 Response Comp

5. Standard Operating Procedure for COVID-19 response



SoPs nCOVID-19
Response UNDP-CCI