

Highlights

September 2021



HIGH-LEVEL FIELD MISSION TO OBSERVE THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM INITIATIVE

On **September 22**, UNFPA joined a high-level field mission with the Government, various UN agencies and their donors to observe the work of the groundbreaking Community Support Team initiative in Dhaka.

UNFPA Representative, **Dr. Asa Torkelsson** participated alongside the the Honourable Senior Secretary of the Health Services Division, Lokman Hossain Miah; UN Resident Coordinator, Mia Seppo; the Additional Director General of Health Services, Prof. Dr. Nasima Sultana; and the Chief Of Health of World Bank Bangladesh, Dr. Bushra Binte Alam.

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HANDOVER OF PORTABLE X-RAY MACHINES

Prior to observing the work of the Community Support Teams, the delegation participated in a ceremony, where UNFPA and FAO handed over 2 portable x-ray machines to the Mugda Medical College and Hospital.

The x-ray machines were among 30 portable x-ray machines that UNFPA and FAO have donated to 21 hospitals throughout the pandemic with funding provided through the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility.

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THE UNITED STATES VISITS HOST COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR



On September 20, we had the honour of welcoming the Ambassador of the United States to Bangladesh, His Excellency Earl Miller and representatives of USAID to one of our Women-Led Community Centers located in the host communities surrounding the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

The US delegation also visited the UNFPA-supported HOPE Field Hospital, where they met passionate midwives and saw first-hand the life-saving work they continue to do during COVID-19. Thank you United States for helping us support thousands of women and girls in Cox's Bazar during this challenging time!

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UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE VISITS JAMALPUR DISTRICT

This month, our Country Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson visited Jamalpur District to oversee the activities undertaken by our joint "Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage in Bangladesh" with UNICEF.

During the mission, Dr. Torkelsson visited Pinder Hati Government Primary School, where she met with the school's Central Management and Anti-Sexual Harassment Committees to discuss measures taken to prevent sexual harassment and child marriages among adolescent girls.

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UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE VISITS JAMALPUR DISTRICT (PT2)

Dr. Torkelsson also participated in a ceremony, where she handed over 18 laptops to a local computer skills training center for girls.

Furthermore, she attended the 'District Level Project Review Workshop' of the UNFPA-supported 'Generation Breakthrough' project, where she met with local decision makers to discuss novel ways to improve gender equity and women's rights in the district.



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4 YEARS SINCE THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

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This month, we marked four years since the beginning of the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. Several initiatives we have carried out over the years to support Rohingya women and girls.

SCHOOLS REOPEN ACROSS BANGLADESH

After 18 months of remote education, millions of youth and adolescents all over Bangladesh returned to school this month!

We wish all students in Bangladesh the best of luck as they return to a more stable and ordinary learning environment!



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**DFAT VISITS
WOMEN
FRIENDLY
SPACES IN
COX'S BAZAR**



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This month, a delegation from DFAT visited our Women Friendly Spaces in the Rohingya camps, where they met with women who have benefited from the services provided by the facilities.

With Australia's generous support, UNFPA's 27 Women Friendly Spaces are fully operational and providing essential integrated SRH-GBV services to women and girls during COVID19.



VISIT TO MOHAKHALI CAMPUS OF ICDDR,B

This month, we had the honour of visiting the Mohakhali campus of icddr,b. During the action-packed day, we visited the in-campus hospital facility and virology laboratory and had a comprehensive discussion on our efforts to implement the Better Health District Model in 8 districts across Bangladesh.

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Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning
Dr. Shamsul Alam
Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Planning
Dr. Asa Torkelsson
Representative, UNFPA, Bangladesh
Mr. Mohammad Yamin Chowdhury
Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning

Date: 14th September, 2021
Venu: BBS Auditorium, Parishankhyan Bhaban (Ground Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

UNFPA



CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE OVERALL ARCHITECTURE OF DIGITAL CENSUS 2021

On September 15, UNFPA Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson, participated in a consultation workshop on the digital architecture of the population and housing census that Bangladesh will be conducting this year.

The Honorable Minister of Planning, Mr. M. A. Mannan participated in the meeting alongside many other high-level representatives of the Government.

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VISITING KISHORI RESOURCES CENTERS IN THE SLUMS OF DHAKA

In the beginning of September, we visited four of our Kishori Resource Centers in the slums of Dhaka, where we interacted with around 100 adolescent girls who have received lifeskills education through our "Accelerating Action to #EndChildMarriage in Bangladesh project" with UNICEF.

Together, we discussed how we can better protect adolescent girls from harmful things in their communities, such as sexual harassment and child marriage.

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BANGLADESH'S 6TH NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING

This month, UNFPA had the honour of participating in Bangladesh's 6th National Youth Conference on Family Planning. The conference brings together youth leaders, Government officials and other stakeholders to devise solutions to the family planning needs of youth in Bangladesh.

“We must regard the youth of Bangladesh as our active partners for change. Every young person here today has the potential to drive the changes that are needed to ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights,” Dr. Torkelsson stated to youth present in the meeting.



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Celebrating World Population Day with the University of Dhaka

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On September 5, we hosted an event with the University of Dhaka, where we discussed the theme of World Population Day this year: “Rights and choices are the answers: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution lies in prioritizing reproductive health and rights of all people.”

UNFPA Representative Dr. Asa Torkelsson participated in the meeting alongside many high-level faculty members of the University of Dhaka and emphasized the importance of protecting the bodily autonomy of women and girls in Bangladesh.

INTEGRATING SRHR SERVICES INTO PHARMACIES IN BANGLADESH

UNFPA has designed an intervention to integrate SRHR services and counseling into urban pharmacies in 8 districts around Bangladesh.

This month, we began to train the first batch of pharmacists in Bogura District. The training encouraged the pharmacists present to adhere to allowable provisions when serving patients and guided them in referring complicated cases to more advanced facilities for support.

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SWITZERLAND VISITS COX'S BAZAR

This month, Ms. Barbara Wildi, the Head of the Project Office of the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh paid a visit to Cox's Bazar to learn about our initiatives in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities.

During the active day, Ms. Wildi visited UNFPA supported Women Friendly Spaces and Women-Led Community Centers, and met with midwives and adolescent girls enrolled in our life skills education programmes.

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**EDUCATE
A GIRL,
CHANGE
THE WORLD.**

WORLD LITERACY DAY

On September 8, we celebrated World Literacy Day by stressing the importance of every girl in Bangladesh having equal access to quality education.

Bangladesh can only achieve its full potential if its girls are able to reach their full potential.

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CONGRATULATIONS MIDWIFERY GRADUATES!

UNFPA expresses its heartfelt congratulations to all 1487 midwifery students in Bangladesh, who have passed their licensing exam this month!

We hope to see each of you saving the lives of mothers and newborns across the country in the coming months. Never has your expertise been as needed as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Congratulations



TO ALL MIDWIFERY GRADUATES ACROSS BANGLADESH!





TRAINING ON SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS IN PATUAKHALI DISTRICT

This week, UNFPA has been hosting a two-day training on Social and Behavioral Change Communications to address GBV in Patuakhali District.

26 participants from the district police, the Government, BRAC, AVAS and Shushlilan participated in the training to develop a holistic approach to addressing factors that contribute to gender-based violence.

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TRAINING ON CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

This month, UNFPA had the honour of hosting a 6-day training on cervical cancer screening for doctors, nurses and midwives from District Hospitals and Upazila Health Complexes in Bogura and Cox's Bazar.

The Additional Director General of Health Services, Prof. Dr. Nasima Sultana, participated in the closing session of the training and emphasized the importance of effective monitoring to collect data on cervical cancer in Bangladesh.



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THE EMBASSY OF NORWAY VISITS COX'S BAZAR

Yesterday, we were happy to host the Royal Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Espen Rikter-Svendsen and Senior Advisor Mr. Morshed Ahmed on a visit to a UNFPA- supported #WomenLedCommunityCenter in the #Rohingya camps in #CoxsBazar.

During the visit, the Ambassador met with Rohingya #women and watched them sew their own cloth masks and sanitary pads as part of UNFPA's livelihoods and skills development activities in the centres.

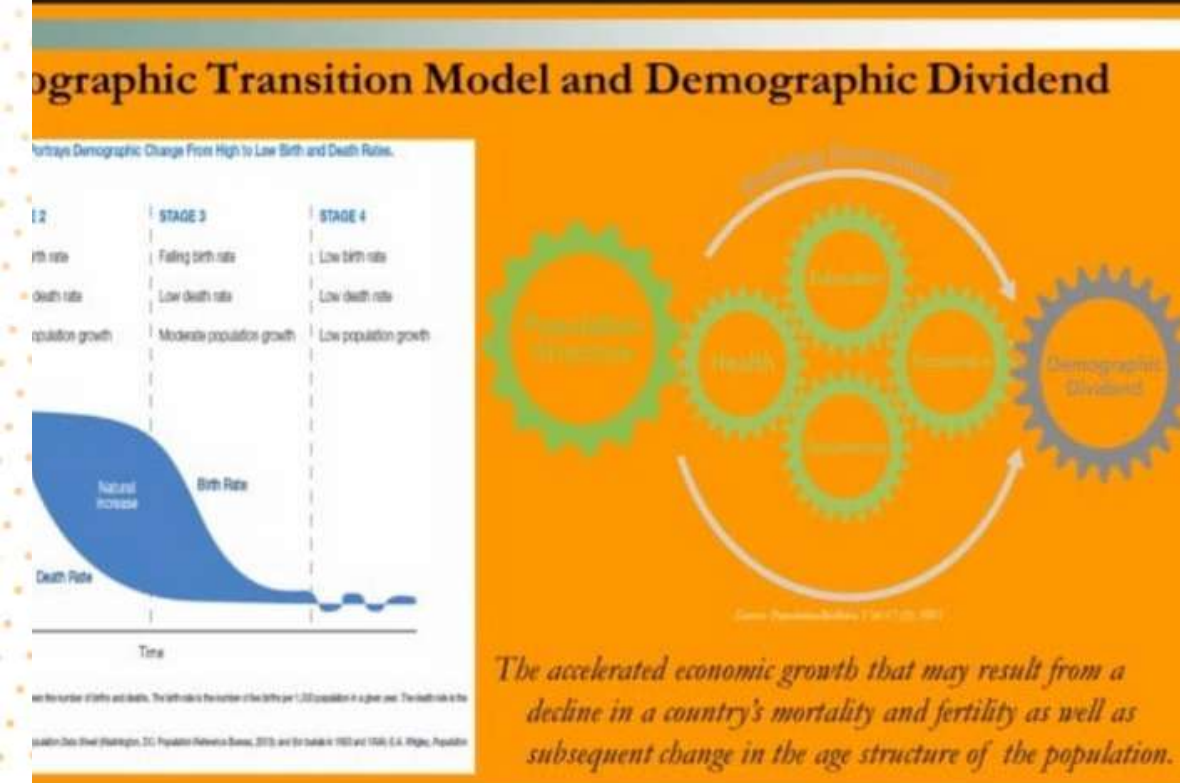
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POLICY DIALOGUE ON ACCELERATING FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

On September 28, UNFPA Bangladesh participated in a policy dialogue on accelerating female labour force participation in Bangladesh.

The dialogue was hosted by Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat and the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury participated alongside multiple Government Ministers and Members of Parliament. In her remarks, UNFPA Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson, highlighted how women's economic empowerment is intimately linked with women's access to sexual and reproductive health services.



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TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON CAUSE ANALYSIS OF MATERNAL AND PERINATAL DEATH SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE

On September 29, we hosted a Technical Workshop on Cause Analysis of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response in Sylhet division, where the causes for each maternal and perinatal death in the year 2021 were analysed.

Dr. Md. Shahad Hossain Mahmud, Director General attended as the chief guest of the workshop.



TRAININGS ON HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

This month, UNFPA conducted 3-day trainings on "Health Sector Response to GBV" for doctors, nurses and other health service providers in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Chittagong Districts.

Through these trainings, we hope to bring GBV services to the doorsteps of women in communities across the country. This is crucial, as survivors of violence are often afraid to leave their homes to access both health and legal support.

**CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING ON
PROTECTION
FROM SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE FOR
NIGHT GUARDS**



This month, we participated in a Training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, where 20 night guards from our Women-Led Community Centers in Cox's Bazar received guidance on reporting cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in the camps and surrounding host communities.

The training was organized by Gana Protection from Unnayan Kendra (GUK) in Camp 11.



TRAINING ON PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR GBV CASEWORKERS IN COX'S BAZAR

Between 7-9 September, we hosted a training on psychosocial support for 25 caseworkers tackling gender-based violence in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The training aimed to help the caseworkers to understand core concepts, principles and foundational paradigms of PSS and equip them with the skills to provide psychosocial support to women and girls.



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