

# Highlights

*April 2021*







## STATE OF THE WORLD POPULATION REPORT

This month, UNFPA launched its annual flagship publication the State of the World Population. This year the report was dedicated to the issue of bodily autonomy.

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# #MyBodyIsMyOwn



**A dignified and empowered life depends on our right to make fundamental choices regarding health and relationships. Let's work together to ensure that every woman and girl in Bangladesh is empowered to exercise their rights.**

**- Dr Asa Torkelsson  
UNFPA Representative  
Bangladesh**



Let's work together to ensure every woman and girl is empowered to exercise their rights and make fundamental choices regarding their health and relationships.

Click for more info ▶



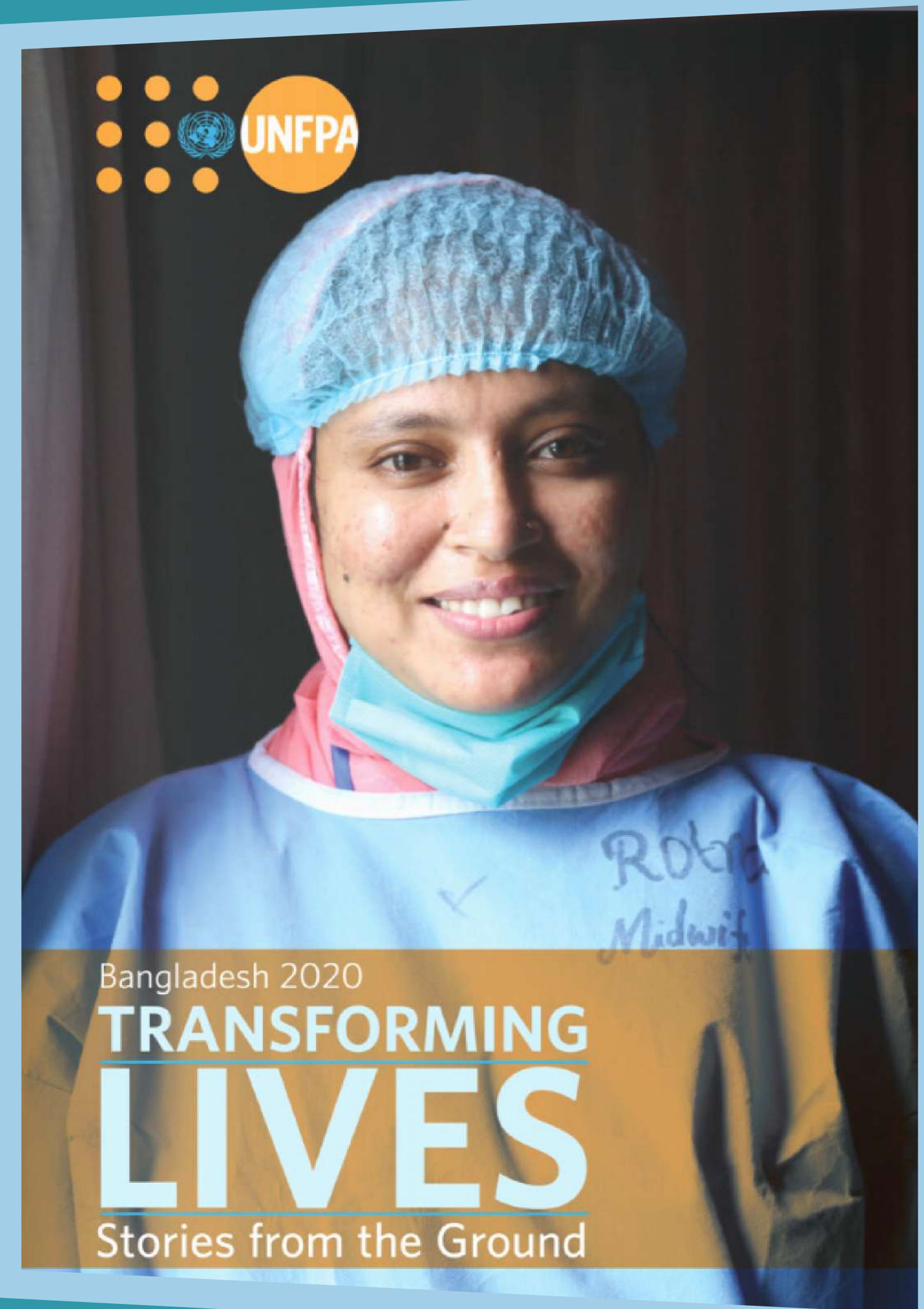
**#MyBodyIsMyOwn**



## Transforming Lives 2020

This month, we published our annual Transforming Lives booklet, which highlights the impact of our work through human interest stories. This year, the booklet contains 10 inspiring stories of people staying resilient in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19.

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“I am so happy to be able to financially contribute to my family”

- Marina, 47, Rangpur Division



“When I developed a fistula after the delivery of my sixth child, I felt so alone and stressed. Because of the foul smell caused by the disease, nobody wanted to come and meet me. Even my own family members could not tolerate it! Fortunately, my husband stayed with me as we had to take care of the children.

Then one day, I met a government health worker who told me that my condition could be cured through a surgery. After some time, I was finally able to have it and recover from this devastating illness.

After the surgery, I received a sewing machine and sewing training. Now I am making cloth masks to stop the spread of COVID-19 and earn around 2,500tk per month. I am so happy to be able to financially contribute to my family again.”

Fistula survivors continue to suffer from stigma and discrimination in Bangladesh. UNFPA strives to ensure their dignified reintegration into society by providing these women with livelihood opportunities and raising awareness for the struggles they face.

In 2020, UNFPA together with our partner, LAMB Institute, provided training for fistula survivors in Rangpur Division to sew and sell their own cloth masks. The initiative allowed the women to gain financial independence amidst the pandemic, while also contributing to combat COVID-19 and regaining respect from their communities.

Transforming Lives 2020

*You may read the stories here:*





This world autism awareness day



## World Autism Awareness Day



Let's Embrace Differences

Autism does not prevent one from having meaningful relationships or a fulfilling life. On World Autism Awareness Day, we asked everyone in Bangladesh to embrace differences and learn about how society can be more inclusive to people on the autism spectrum.

Click for more info ▶



# YOU ARE OUR

# REAL HEROES



## WORLD HEALTH DAY

*This month on World Health Day, we celebrated health workers who are selflessly serving at the frontlines against COVID-19. Without their work, none of us are safe in these uncertain times.*

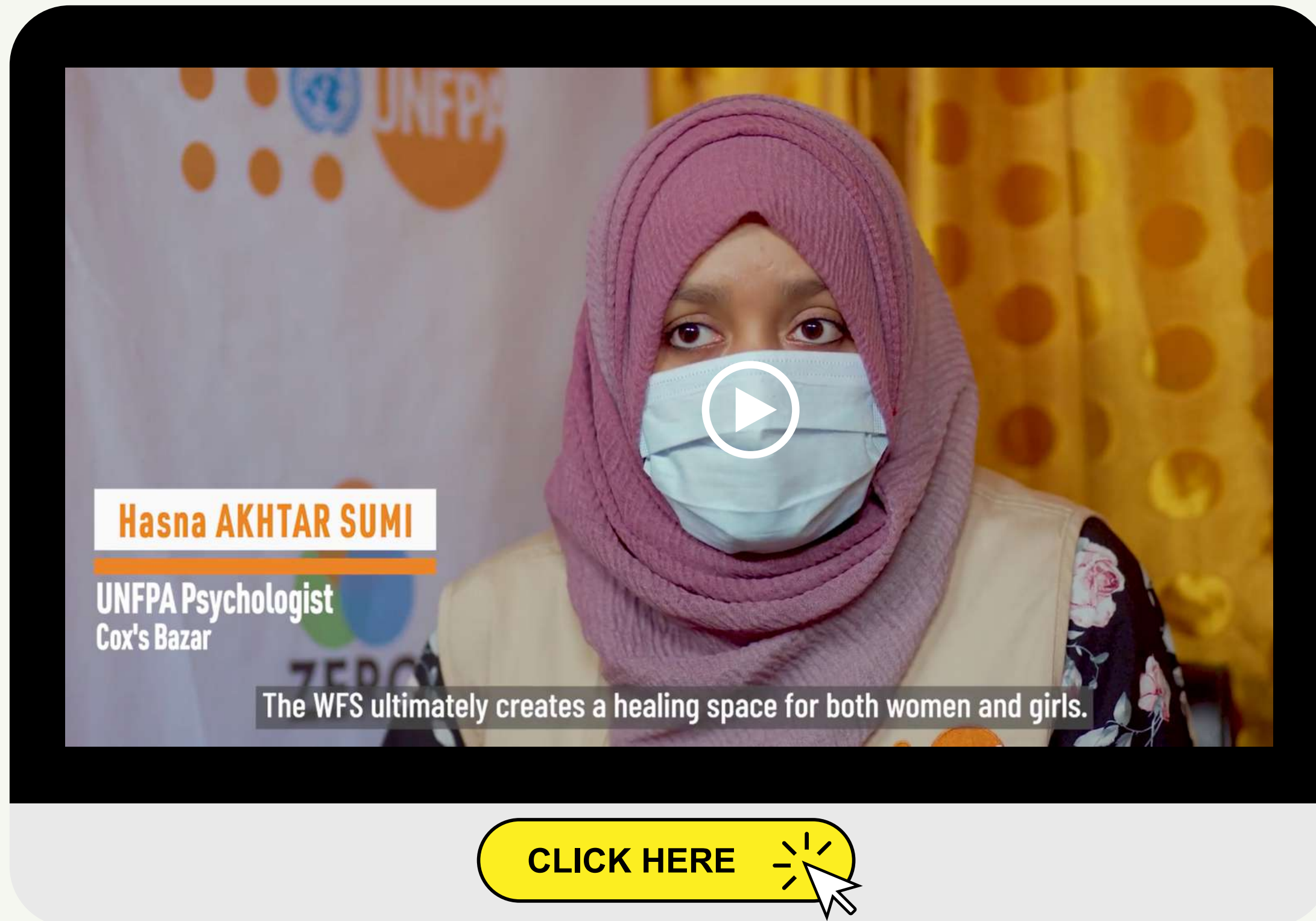
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Agence France Presse covers  
Women Friendly Spaces in Cox's Bazar

*This month, Agence France Presse released a video on how the mental health and psychosocial support services in UNFPA's Women Friendly Spaces in Cox's Bazar are helping Rohingya women and girls heal from trauma.*



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*Wishing everyone a very happy  
and prosperous  
Bengali New Year!*

## **HAPPY BENGALI NEW YEAR!**

This year, we had to celebrate Bengali New Year amidst a national lockdown. At UNFPA, we found a way to mark the occasion with all our staff members dressing in beautiful spring colours for our virtual All Staff Meeting.

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## GAC Host Community Project

Through the “*Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Services in Host Communities in Cox’s Bazar*” project funded by the Government of Canada, UNFPA aims to eliminate gender-based violence in remote communities in Cox's Bazar District.

Click for more info ▶



To learn more about the project  
by reading the story of Muntaha

CLICK HERE





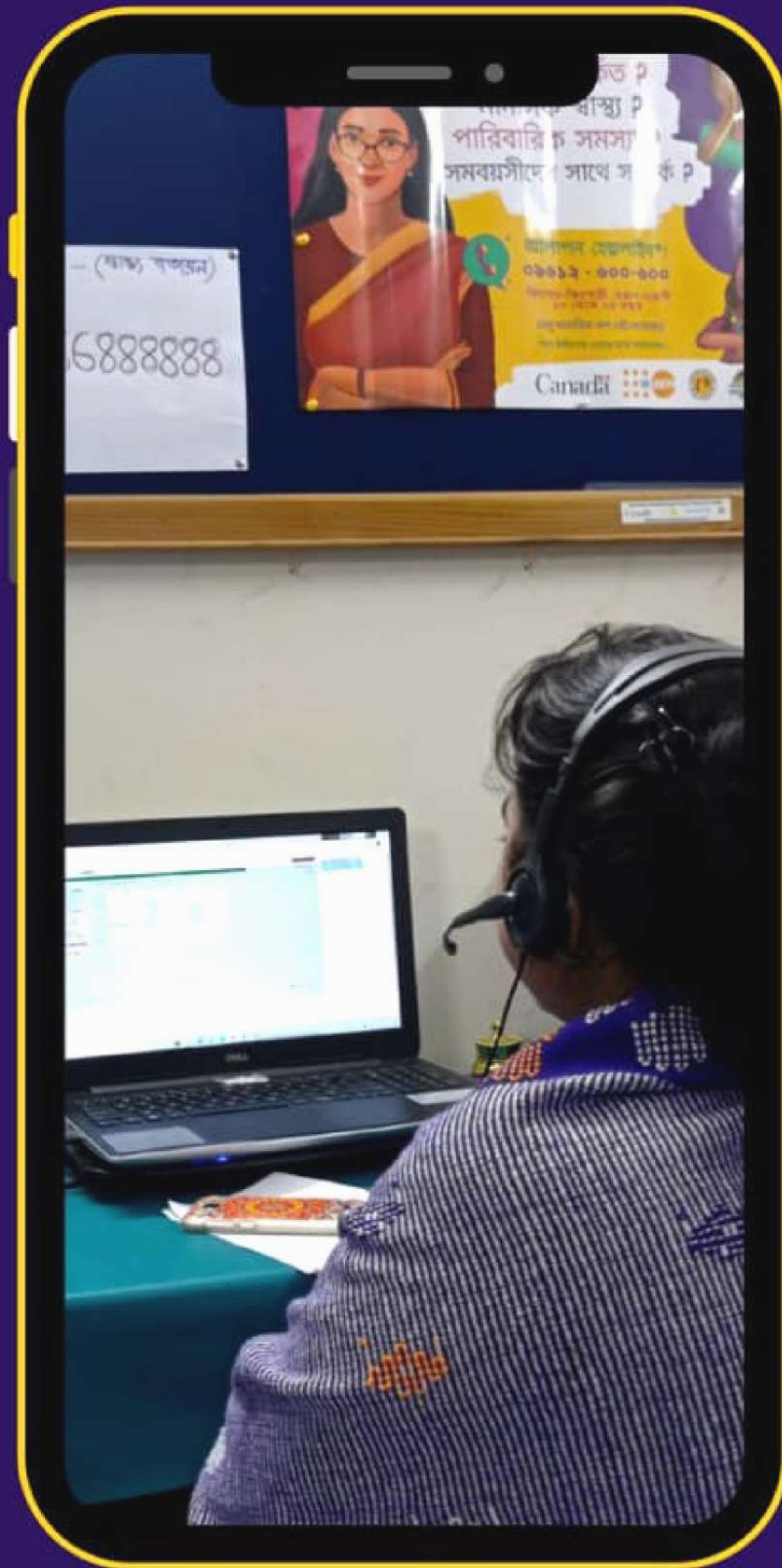


**The most satisfying part of my job is interacting with young people & helping them overcome challenges they face during puberty!**

- Alapon helpline counselor



Bangladesh



**Alapon helpline continues to help youth and adolescents amidst COVID-19**

*Through the “Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Services in Host Communities in Cox’s Bazar” project funded by the Government of Canada, UNFPA aims to eliminate gender-based violence in remote communities in Cox’s Bazar District.*

**Click for more info ►**







## UNFPA volunteers shed light on communities hit by natural disasters

[Click for more info](#) ▶



*In 2020, UNFPA trained four young Bangladeshis on photography and asked them document the stories of women and girls affected by natural disasters in their communities.*





## Midwifery Education amidst COVID-19

*Throughout COVID-19, UNFPA has helped the Government of Bangladesh to devise innovative solutions to ensure the continuation of midwifery education during the pandemic.*

**Click for more info** ▶





# Mother Earth Day

This month, we also celebrated Mother Earth Day.

COVID-19 has shown how crucial taking care of our ecosystems is for ensuring our well being. Let us all seek ways to live in harmony with mother nature.

[Click for more info](#) ▶



# Mother Earth Day!







LAUNCH OF THE REPORT

# Young People and the Law

2020 Update

Young People and the Law Report

Click for more info ▶



*This month, UNFPA launched the Young People and the Law Report for 2020, which covers recent legal and policy trends and developments affecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights young people in Asia and the Pacific, including Bangladesh.*





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