On 5 May, we marked International Day of the Midwife by joining the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery and Bangladesh Midwifery Society in hosting an event titled “A 10-Year Journey of Midwifery in Bangladesh.” The event brought together over 100 midwives and high-level representatives of the Government and its partners to celebrate the contributions midwives have made to maternal health in Bangladesh over the last decade.

“During my childhood I did not see any midwives in my community. Traditional birth attendants used to perform the deliveries by following a variety of traditional methods. I remember how the women were always taken from their homes to the barn, where they did the delivery on dry grass. No relatives were ever allowed to witness the delivery!”

In May, UNFPA’s Regional Office in the Asia-Pacific organized an Innovation Expo, where UNFPA staff members voted for the greatest UNFPA innovations in the region. 110 submissions from different country offices participated in the voting, which was won by UNFPA’s and WFP’s joint “Building Blocks” initiative in Bangladesh.

The project was recognized for its innovative use of blockchain technology to improve women’s and girls’ access to menstrual hygiene and food items in the slums of Dhaka.
THE US AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MEETS UNFPA-SUPPORTED IMAMS IN THE ROHINGYA CAMPS
On 19 April, the US Ambassador At Large for International Religious Freedom, Rashad Hussain, visited Cox’s Bazar, where he met with 12 imams that UNFPA has collaborated with through its initiatives in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities. The fruitful exchange between the Imams and the US Ambassador stressed the need for madrasas to foster respect and peace between communities and mobilize young people to stand up against gender-based violence.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NORWAY VISITS UNFPA’S WOMEN FRIENDLY SPACES IN THE ROHINGYA CAMPS
On 24 April, we were honoured to welcome Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Anniken Huitfeld, to the Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar. The Honourable Minister paid a visit to UNFPA’s Women Friendly Spaces, where she met with Rohingya girls to discuss child marriage and other dangers they face as adolescent girls in the camps. The Minister also received a tour of UNFPA-supported services for survivors of gender-based violence in the camps.

A DELEGATION FROM THE WORLD BANK VISITS COX’S BAZAR
On 22-23 May, a World Bank delegation led by Practice Manager on Social Sustainability and Inclusion in South Asia, Robin Mearns, paid a visit to UNFPA’s initiatives in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities. During the two day mission, the delegation visited a One-Stop Crisis Cell providing services to survivors of gender-based violence in one of the host communities and observed UNFPA’s Champions of Change life skills education session for adolescent boys in the Rohingya camps.
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

UNFPA AND DGHS HOST A WORKSHOP ON PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV, HEPATITIS AND SYPHILIS

STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF FISTULA SURVIVORS ON INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END OBSTETRIC FISTULA

ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH

UNFPA'S AWARENESS-RAISING SESSIONS SUPPORT MARRIED ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN JAMALPUR DISTRICT

FIRST BATCH OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS COMPLETE UNFPA'S COMPUTER SKILLS TRAINING COURSE

GENDER

THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA INAUGURATES 659 “WOMEN, CHILDREN, ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SERVICE DESKS” IN POLICE STATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY
SUCCESS STORIES

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

UNFPA HELPS ROHINGYA YOUTH MAINTAIN THEIR MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH SPORTS

UNFPA AND UNHCR HOST A 5-DAY TRAINING ON PROTECTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

POPULATION DYNAMICS

UNFPA JOINS MEMBERS OF THE BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT IN PILOTING A NEW INITIATIVE TO TACKLE CHILD MARRIAGE AND IMPROVE AWARENESS OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES