Highlights
August 2021
This month, we signed an agreement with KOICA for a new project to improve menstrual health and hygiene in Cox's Bazar.

The agreement worth 2,950,000 USD was signed on August 26 by the Country Director of KOICA, Youngah Doh and UNFPA Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson in a ceremony held at the Six Seasons Hotel in Dhaka.

We thank our friends from Korea for joining us in breaking the silence around menstruation in Bangladesh!
This month, The Embassy of France contributed 200,000€ to support UNFPA’s efforts to provide mental health and psychosocial support services to survivors of gender-based violence in Bangladesh. Thank you France for your commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment in these critical times!
This International Youth Day, we celebrated the leadership youth in Bangladesh and around the world are taking to address climate change and food insecurity.

READ this op-ed to learn how UNFPA and other UN agencies are empowering the youth of Bangladesh to be agents of change for food security:

Click for more info
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

On International Youth Day, we also had the honour of participating in an event hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, where we discussed ways of harnessing the potential of youth in Bangladesh to transform food systems for human and planetary health.

UNFPA Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson participated in the event alongside the Honorable State Minister, Mr. Zahid Hasan Russel; Honorable Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr. Md. Akther Hossain; and other high-level representatives of the Government and NGOs in Bangladesh.
WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY
On August 19, we marked World Humanitarian Day by drawing attention to the devastating impact climate change is having on the wellbeing of women, girls and other vulnerable groups in Bangladesh and around the world.

It is our duty to ensure that all measures that are taken to address the climate crisis are inclusive and prioritize the needs of those most vulnerable to its effects.

Climate change affects everyone, everywhere, yet it is particularly devastating for women and girls.

As we relentlessly seek solutions to the climate crisis, we must deliver on our promises of equality and empowerment to women and girls.

- Dr Asa Torkelson
Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh
“I finally have a garden of my own here in the camp and I can once again nurture my passion!”

UNFPA enables Rohingya youth to ensure food security for their families by helping them to start their own microgardens in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar:
Please view this video for a comprehensive overview of our achievements in Cox's Bazar during 2021!
Climate change and the natural disasters caused by it make women and girls much more vulnerable to gender-based violence. READ our GBV Sub-Cluster Coordinator, Rumana Khan, explain how UNFPA is working to address the issue in Bangladesh:
RESPONSE TO FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN THE ROHINGYA CAMPS

Throughout the month, we continued our efforts to provide relief to the tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees who were affected by floods and landslides that occurred in the Rohingya camps in the end of July.
This month, we screened almost 400 women for cervical cancer at the Kutubpur Community Clinic in Narayanganj.

7 of the women screened were found to be VIA positive and they have been referred for further examinations.

Despite COVID-19, we continue our work to ensure a #CervicalCancerFreeFuture in Bangladesh!
To help health workers manage their mental health during COVID-19, icddr,b has developed an online platform to provide virtual mental health counseling to both health care providers and COVID-19 patients.

With our support, the initiative is being carried out in six districts under the leadership of the Directorate General of Health Services and icddr,b.
Yesterday, UNFPA had the privilege of attending a national technical committee meeting on ending gender-biased sex selection in Bangladesh, hosted by the Directorate General of Health Services.

UNFPA is working with the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that son preference does not violate the rights or prevent the ability of girls to reach their full potential in the country.
UNFPA is working with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to develop national referral guidelines to ensure that entities providing support to survivors of gender-based violence have a coordinated structure of services in Bangladesh.

This month, we jointly organized a discussion in Cox's Bazar, where the draft guidelines were presented for feedback from key stakeholders and implementing partners.
This month, we organized a 2-day training on social and behavioral change communications to our partners in Cox's Bazar.

The training was held to establish a holistic approach to link individual behaviors and social norms to address issues related to gender-based violence in Bangladesh.
ESTABLISHING A ONE STOP CRISIS CELL IN UKHIYA DISTRICT

Last week, we and several high-level government representatives had the pleasure of visiting Ukhiya District, Cox’s Bazar, where we inaugurated a designated space for a One Stop Crisis Cell in the local Upazila Health Complex.

Once the space has been renovated and staffed, the One Stop Crisis Cell will provide comprehensive support services to survivors of gender-based violence, including medico-legal examinations, clinical management of rape, mental health and psychological support, and legal referrals. The initiative is being carried out as part of the Health and Gender Support Project funded by World Bank.
This month, we helped 13 fistula survivors from Sunamganj, Sylhet and Habiganj districts to come to Dhaka for their fistula repairs. Each of them was admitted to the MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health or OGSB Fistula Center, where they successfully underwent surgeries.
This month, we began the process of distributing 1875 Menstrual Hygiene Management kits to financially challenged women and girls in Jamalpur Sadar Upazila.

The intervention is being carried out under the ‘Life Saving Multisectoral GBV Response Services are Accessible to Women and Girls and Delivered through a Survivor Centered Approach’ project funded by UN CERF.