

# March Highlights

2021



# COVID-19 HIGHLIGHTS



## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

MARCH - DECEMBER 2020



[CLICK HERE](#)



While COVID19 undoubtedly made 2020 a challenging year for UNFPA, it did not stop us from providing critical support to people around Bangladesh in their time of need.

More info:



# GAC HOST COMMUNITY PROJECT COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING



At the beginning of the month, the GAC Host Community Project Coordination Committee met to discuss provision of equitable SRHR and GBV response services to the host communities surrounding the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

The UNFPA-led project delivered in collaboration with the Government, is implemented by our partners - **Save the Children, CARE, Concerned Women for Family Development, Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Jhpiego.**

More info:



# BANGLADESH'S 8TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

This month, we were happy to receive a copy of Bangladesh's 8th Five Year Plan from Dr Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary of the General Economics Division.

The 8th Five Year Plan includes population and development with emphasis on gender equality, which is pivotal to achieving the ICPD Programme of Action and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.



More info:



## DFAT'S VISIT TO COX'S BAZAR



This month, we were delighted to welcome the First Secretary of the Australian High Commission to Bangladesh, Sacha Blumen, to our Women-Led Community Centers in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar.

With Australia's generous support, the centers aim to improve the future prospects for women and girls from the camps and surrounding host communities through livelihoods trainings, self-reliance courses and awareness-raising programmes.

More info:



# Preliminary Consultation on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

On **4 March**, UNFPA and UN Women had a preliminary consultation with the Government on how the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework can support in achieving the targets for women's empowerment and gender equality set out in the **8th Five Year Plan**.

The consultation was part of a series of continuous dialogues with the Government and multiple stakeholders to ensure a safer and inclusive Bangladesh for all women and girls.



More info:



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On International Women's Day this month, we celebrated female leadership. While COVID-19 highlights the importance of women's contribution to society, inequalities still exist. It is our collective duty to ensure that we create an equal future as we **Build Back Better, together!**



Today, we celebrate every woman and girl in Bangladesh, and reiterate our determination to build together an equal, inclusive, and safe future for all.

*Dr Asa Torkelsson*  
UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh



More info:



# Celebrating Female Leadership at UNFPA

As part of our International Women's Day celebrations, we launched a campaign to pay tribute to 36 of our amazing female leaders at UNFPA Bangladesh.

To see the inspiration behind these women and how they have combated the effects of COVID-19 through their work:

More info:



It is my wholehearted honor to serve alongside our team comprising amazing women leaders in supporting the Government of Bangladesh to respond to COVID-19, with a laser-sharp focus on meeting the needs of women and girls.

- Dr Asa Torkelsson  
Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh



It is so important that UNFPA's programmes adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19, and I am fortunate to work with our staff at UNFPA Bangladesh in doing so, and in leaving no one behind.

- Dr Eiko Narita  
Deputy Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh



#SheLeads



The Rohingya crisis amid COVID-19 imposed challenges within the camps and for the host community, but I am proud of our fantastic UNFPA team in Cox's Bazar, as we've worked together to continue essential life-saving services despite the pandemic.

- Roselidah Raphael  
Head of Sub-Office, Cox's Bazar



#SheLeads



It is a privilege to lead the Gender team at UNFPA Bangladesh, working with dedicated women and men who are committed to ensuring a gender equal society, free from violence.

- Shamima Pervin  
Gender Programme Specialist

+23

# WOMEN LEADERSHIP: WHAT DOES IT TAKE?



To celebrate International Women's Day, the United Nations in Bangladesh held an event on “Women in Leadership: **What does it take?**”.

The Honourable Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was the Chief Guest, welcomed by UN Resident Coordinator, Mia Seppo. The event also included a panel discussion with prominent female leaders from Bangladesh's law enforcement, health and private sector tackling the question posed in the title of the event.

More info:



# ACT NOW FOR EQUAL TOMORROW



On International Women's Day, together with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, we partnered with Ain o Salish Kendra and Dhaka Tribune, with support from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangladesh to host an event titled

## **"Act Now for an Equal Tomorrow".**

The event featured artistic performances and panel discussions that all tackled the issue of encouraging women and enhancing their decision making power in Bangladesh. Unleashing the full potential of women and girls is one the key goals of UNFPA in Bangladesh and the event undoubtedly inspired all those present to commit themselves to achieving this goal. **SAY YES TO EQUALITY!**

More info:



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN COX'S BAZAR



In the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, we had colourful Women's Day celebrations with adolescent girls engaging in fun community-bonding activities, such as playing 'Balish Khela'(pillow passing game) and 'Chair Khela' (musical chairs) in a UNFPA Women Friendly Space.

The girls also had the opportunity to listen to an officer from Danchurchaid, and a caseworker from Mukti Cox's Bazar, on their experiences and challenges as female leaders supporting other women in need.

More info:



# FIELD VISIT TO TEAGARDENS IN SYLHET



This month, we visited Sylhet, Bangladesh, where our Joint SDG Fund Programme is improving female teagarden workers' access to sexual and reproductive health services.

During our visit, we joined a session with pregnant workers on safe practices during pregnancy and met many of our hard working volunteers who work to ensure safe birth for every woman in the teagardens.

More info:



# ZERO TOLERANCE FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE



From today they work with even more enthusiasm and vigor

Workplaces should be safe places. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for many women in #Bangladesh. Watch this video of Salma, Seema, and Julekha sharing their stories and how they raised their voice for justice.

More info:



# UN EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR'S VIRTUAL VISIT TO KURIGRAM DISTRICT



More info:



On 15 March, we participated in hosting a virtual field visit for Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock to Kurigram District. During the visit, USG Mark Lowcock interacted with 6 recipients of the relief aid that UNOCHA and UNCERF had provided to them before the floods hit their village in Kurigram district last year.

Mr. Lowcock also spoke with Government Officials to understand how support can be further strengthened going forward.

# JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING WITH ERD



## Joint consultative meeting on the CPDs of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF Bangladesh

16 March 2021

Dhaka



This month, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP facilitated a joint consultation meeting with the Economic Relations Division and senior officials from the Government to receive feedback on the new Country Programme Documents that will outline agency interventions in Bangladesh for the next 4 years.

The inputs and feedback received through this important meeting will help to further strengthen interlinkages between the UN agencies support to the Government of Bangladesh.

More info:





## HIGH-LEVEL MISSION FROM SWEDEN TO COX'S BAZAR

This month, we were happy to host a high-level mission from Sweden to Cox's Bazar and warmly welcome Sweden's Minister of International Development & Humanitarian Affairs, Per Olsson Fridh to Bangladesh.

Thanks to the generous contribution from Sweden, midwives are able to provide sexual and reproductive health services to both Rohingya and surrounding host communities in Cox's Bazar.

More info:



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



© UNFPA Bangladesh / Ferdous Alka

**#FightRacism**  
**#StandUp4HumanRights**

Racism and xenophobia still continue to threaten the lives of people from communities around the world.

On International Day of the Elimination Of Racial Discrimination, we urged everyone to fight discrimination and inequality in all their forms.

More info:



# FIRES IN THE ROHINGYA CAMPS

The Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar were devastated by serious fires this month, with UNFPA's facilities not being spared by the destruction.

In response to the tragedy, we continue to assess the situation and are working closely with our partners & volunteers on the ground to ensure the health and safety of women and girls, including pregnant mothers.



More info:



# GBV INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REFRESHER TRAINING



Protecting GBV survivors through ethical and safe management of data is our goal!

This month, through a GBV Information Management System workshop in Cox's Bazar, we trained 30 GBV specialists on the sharing information platform for improved GBV partners coordination.

More info:



# GBV CLUSTER PLANNING WORKSHOP



UNFPA leads the GBV Cluster of Bangladesh, which is a body of 36 organizations working together towards keeping women and girls safe from gender-based violence.

This month, the GBV cluster members came together to discuss some milestone work that includes development of a national GBV referral pathway guideline for survivors of genderbased violence and an Anticipatory Action package for the upcoming monsoon and cyclone season.

More info:



# REVISING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT OF 2010



Despite the Domestic Violence Act of 2010, only few cases for domestic violence have been filed under it in Bangladesh.

To make the current legal framework more effective, the Eliminating Child Marriage and Preventing Gender Based Violence Sub-committee of the UNFPA-supported BAPPD organized a consultation with the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on 24 March.

More info:



# INDEPENDENCE DAY



On 26 March, Bangladesh celebrated its 50th Independence Day.

UNFPA congratulates the people of Bangladesh on their golden anniversary and looks forward to building its fruitful partnership with the Government to meet the SRHR needs of the citizens of this beautiful country.

More info:



# SHAHANA CARTOON SERIES



We will alert everyone, especially the elderly and pregnant

[CLICK HERE](#)



This month, we also published three new miniclips of our hugely popular Shahana Cartoon Series. These new episodes have been specifically designed for the context of COVID-19 and can be viewed on YouTube.



B a n g l a d e s h