Highlights

July 2021
On July 11, we celebrated World Population Day by reiterating our commitment to protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of every person in Bangladesh.

Even amidst the difficulties of COVID-19, it is our duty to ensure that nobody lacks access to essential sexual and reproductive health services.
For World Population Day 2021, the Directorate General of Family Planning also premiered a documentary on countrywide efforts to ensure every woman's access to family planning during COVID-19.

UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh, Dr. Asa Torkelsson, also appeared in the documentary.
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FAMILY PLANNING CELEBRATES WORLD POPULATION DAY

On WPD, we participated in an event hosted by the Directorate General of Family Planning, where we discussed how the sexual and reproductive rights of people in Bangladesh can be ensured during COVID-19.

UNFPA Deputy Representative, Dr. Eiko Narita, spoke at the event alongside the Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Zahid Maleque and other high-level representatives of the country.
On July 15, we marked World Youth Skills Day by celebrating the creativity and resilience of youth during COVID-19.

By increasing investments in youth skills training in Bangladesh and around the world, we will be able to tackle the challenges that stand on our path to sustainable development.
UNFPA’S LIFE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN BANGLADESH

Through its various life skills programmes around the country, UNFPA is making sure that young people in Bangladesh have the ability to make a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood.

“Designing the block batik products allows me to use my imagination. It gives me immense joy to work with the block dice and apply the different techniques I learned from the Girl Shine Life Enhancement programme.

In the future, I want to open my own shop and a learning center, where I will be able to teach the skills I have learned to other girls and women in my community.”

NOWSHIN AKTER
Participant of UNFPA’s Girl Shine Programme in Ukhia District

“My mental health has been negatively affected by the ongoing lockdown and making the block batik products helps me to achieve a peace of mind. I love recycling my family’s old clothes, shopping bags and scarves and turning them into something useful.

I want to use this new skill as a way to earn money for my family during this difficult time.”

NISHAT SHAKILA
Participant of UNFPA’s Girl Shine Programme in Ukhia District
This Eid, spread the message of love by staying indoors.

Eid Mubarak!
During the Eid holidays, UNFPA took part in a collective effort by UN agencies in Bangladesh to raise awareness for the dangers of COVID-19. During the 8 day campaign, information related to COVID-19 was distributed to millions of people in markets, mosques, brothels and other public places across the country.

Information was also broadcast through traditional media.
During COVID-19, UNFPA has supported the Government and icddr,b in forming Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) committees in 6 districts around the country.

The 10-12 member committees are responsible for developing infection control policies for the facilities and ensuring that sufficient resources are available to support the IPC programme.
This month, the Ministry of Education announced that episodes of UNFPA 's Shahana Cartoon Series will be shown to children in schools across Bangladesh on a weekly basis. Through the episodes, the children will learn about youth and adolescents rights, child marriage and gender-based violence.
To strengthen maternal health services in Bangladesh, UNFPA supports the implementation of a Better Health District Model in 8 districts around the country.

Recently, UNFPA helped to carry out an environmental scanning of 16 Upazila Health Complexes in the districts. The key findings of the study were disseminated in a virtual workshop this month. The findings will allow the partners to develop a contingent action plan to provide better service availability and readiness in each of the 8 districts.
Despite COVID-19, UNFPA continues to ensure that high quality sexual and reproductive health services remain available in remote communities across Bangladesh.

This month, our field officers visited the Amtali Upazila Health Center in Barguna District, where we trained midwives on data management and observed the provision of antenatal services.
This month, we distributed 1,750 sharees to women from Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas in Cox's Bazar District. The distribution was carried out in UNFPA's Women Friendly Space and Women Led Community Centres in the area. During the distribution, the women also had the opportunity to attend UNFPA's awareness raising sessions on COVID-19 and GBV referral systems in Cox's Bazar.
This month, UNFPA and our implementing partner Mukti conducted a 4-day training on providing psychosocial support to 31 female IP staff members in Cox’s Bazar. With the skill acquired at the training, the IP staff members will be able to provide psychosocial support to GBV survivors and cascade psychosocial support training to GBV frontline caseworkers.
This month, two members of UNFPA's Adolescents and Youth Unit participated in an Intergenerational Dialogue on Meaningful Youth Engagement, where politicians, youth leaders and policy makers from all over Asia discussed issues related to meaningful youth engagement.

In the event, UNFPA emphasized the importance of youth engagement and leadership, as well as the necessity of laws to promote youth engagement.
At the end of the month, three days of heavy rains resulted in serious flooding in the Rohingya camps of Cox’s Bazar, affecting over 20,000 refugees. UNFPA continues to work in close coordination with volunteers, partners and the government of Bangladesh on the ground to ensure that those affected are protected from gender-based violence, and have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights amidst the disaster.