Highlights

October 2021
On October 1, we marked International Day of Older Persons by celebrating the contributions the elderly make to their communities.

As populations across the Asia-Pacific Region age, it is our duty to ensure that we can provide a dignified life.

#ForEveryAge
This month, our UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson paid a visit to the Sylhet Nursing and Midwifery Institute to meet their students and faculty members. The Additional Director General of Health Services, Dr. Prof. Nasima Sultana, also joined the visit. Their students and faculty members appreciated UNFPA for their logistical support during remote education during COVID-19 and for introducing higher education and PhD programmes for the faculty members.
This month, Mr. Md. Ali Noor, Honorable Secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division visited a Union Health and Family Welfare Center in Palongkhali Union, Cox’s Bazar and monitored how UNFPA integrates GBV interventions into its efforts to provide comprehensive SRHR services in Bangladesh.
On October 3, UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson and Additional Director General of Health Services, Prof. Dr. Nasima Sultana inaugurated a new colposcopy unit in Sunamganj District Hospital.

In the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Sultana thanked UNFPA for providing the new colposcopy machines, which will help to improve the detection of cervical cancer in Sunamganj.
PRESENTING KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HGSP PROJECT

Through its Health and Gender Support project, UNFPA has been working with partners to provide comprehensive SRHR and GBV integrated services in the Rohingya camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

This month, we presented the key achievements of the project so far in a meeting attended by the Honourable Secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division and other officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the Long Beach Hotel Cox's Bazar.
To enhance female tea garden workers and their families access to social protection services, UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO and UN Women are implementing a Joint SDG Programme in the tea gardens of Sylhet Division. This month, our Country Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson, visited the Moulvibazar district, where she met with women and adolescent girls from the tea garden worker communities, who were very happy with the improved health services the project has provided to them.
This month, a delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom visited the UNFPA-supported Women Friendly Spaces and Women-Led Community Centers in the Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar.

We are deeply thankful to the United Kingdom for their generous contribution to UNFPA-supported initiatives that empower adolescents to continue their education and lead productive, fulfilling lives.
This month, we had the honour of hosting the Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, Alexandra Berg Von Linde in the Rohingya camps of Cox’s Bazar. During the visit, the Ambassador observed UNFPA’s efforts to improve access and awareness of family planning among the refugee communities. We thank the Government of Sweden for their unwavering support to the women and girls of Bangladesh during COVID-19.
On World Mental Health Day this year, we stressed the importance of ensuring equal access to mental health support across the world.

Through our Alapon Helpline initiative in Bangladesh, UNFPA is working to ensure that women and adolescent from all parts of Bangladesh can access professional counselling despite the COVID19 pandemic.
On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, we celebrated the importance of mental health in one of our Women Friendly Spaces in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

We are grateful to our partner Mukti Cox's Bazar for organizing this event in order to raise awareness about mental health among Rohingya women.
This month, we had the joy of participating in ShreyaUnbound2021, an event organized by Shreya BD to eliminate gender bias and ensure safe cyberspace for women. UNFPA Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson spoke at the event and emphasized UNFPA's efforts to improve women and girls' access to the internet and other technologies in Bangladesh.
#INTERNATIONAL
DayOfTheGirl
On International Day of the Girl this year, we highlighted UNFPA's efforts to break the gender digital divide in Bangladesh.

Having access to different technologies is a condition for thriving in today's world. It is all of our duty to ensure that girls are able to access the same technologies as boys do.
On International Day of the Girl this year, UNFPA organized an event for adolescent girls in one of its Women Friendly Spaces in the Rohingya camps. During the action-packed day, adolescent girls engaged in play-acting, drawing competitions and quizzes, which gave them an opportunity to reimagine a better future for themselves.
On International Day Of The Girl, we also had the honour of hosting a National Level Interactive Dialogue on the digital empowerment of girls. The Honourable Education Minister, Dr. Dipu Moni, participated at the event as the chief guest alongside the Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Md. Sayedul Islam and our Country Representative, Dr. Asa Torkelsson. Together, they discussed ways to digitally empower girls and to break the gender digital divide. across the country.
UN DAY 2021

On October 24, we marked the 76th UN Day amidst the most serious crisis since the founding of the United Nations.

UNFPA Bangladesh stands proudly with the United Nations in building back together a system to pave the way for recovery from COVID-19.
THE NETHERLANDS OBSERVES UNFPA'S EFFORTS IN COX'S BAZAR

On 12 and 13 October 2021, we had the honour of welcoming Mr. Anne Van Leeuwen, Ambassador of the Netherlands, and Ms. Veronika Flegar, First Secretary of Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and Gender to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

The delegation visited Hope Foundation For Women and Children of Bangladesh Hospital, where they interacted with midwives and family planning providers, who make sure women and men get life-saving information on family planning that allows them to make voluntary and informed choices regarding contraceptives and maternal health.
Through its 13 referral hubs in Cox’s Bazar, UNFPA is ensuring the round-the-clock availability of quality SRHR services in the Rohingya camps and the surrounding host communities.

These small structures serve as waiting stations, where provide basic medical care while patients wait to get transferred to a proper health facility through the ambulance service provided by the hubs.