

The monthly bulletin on the activities of the 'Peaceful Coexistence Project'. The project is being implemented by the Coast Trust in collaboration with UNHCR to improve 'peaceful coexistence' among Host and Rohingya Communities at Rajapalong, Palongkhali, Whykong, Hnila unions and respective 8 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

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## Awareness Raised Among Rohingyas to improve 'Peaceful Coexistence' Until Repatriation



*Siddique Ahamed, a Rohingya fled from Myanmar was speaking about the results that brings IPC projects activities among them.*

Siddique Ahmed is 65 years old. He used to live in Dumbai village, surrounded by green in Mondu town in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. He has a family of 12 with husband and wife, 8 sons and 2 daughters. He used to run his family by doing agricultural work and business of wood and bamboo. Besides, helping father, the sons also earn some money to support their family and the girls help their mother in the household work. After the Myanmar military started atrocities and genocide against the Rohingyas in Rakhine, like many of the victims they also fled to Bangladesh to save their lives. Although initially temporarily they were in many places, the family has now been settled in the 2 no block of Hakimpara Camp 14 in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. Receiving the reliefs from the NGOs and Government they are hardly living in a crowded hut in the camp. But sometimes he gets confused about the future, with thousands of worries in his mind. By the by he said, not about themselves, already been much older, don't know how long will remain alive. They are more worried for their new generation, including his sons and daughters. Although children are going to the learning centers, but the young people are being frustrated for the lack of programs for them. They are being spent lazy time using mobile phones, engaged in immoral and unsocial activities, and quarrelling with the locals. They are getting into the trap of the Scheming people, listening to rumors and spreading rumors.

On the other hand, their repatriation is being delayed, while the anger among the locals is growing. He doesn't know when and how sustainable solution will come out. One day, their neighbor Md. Salim came to them and told them about the 'peaceful coexistence' project. The Coast Trust is implementing the project with the assistance of UNHCR. It is working to tackle dispute and improve 'peaceful coexistence' between the Rohingya and the locals until their repatriation. Also encouraging for peaceful

repatriation. In this regard, they make the 'Social Cohesion Committee' comprised of local dignitaries visited the camps and conducted FGDs with the Rohingya Majhis, Imams and Youths. Through the awareness, dialogue they also found some recommendations for improving peaceful co-existence. The committee also receives valuable opinions and advices to inform the camp in-charges through debriefing meeting. The project staffs are also conducting awareness sessions on human dignity, human rights, refugee rights and peaceful co-existence. And also sports and cultural competitions are being arranged for the camp people of different ages.

Siddique Ahmed also said that by participating in the 'Peaceful Coexistence' project's events, we have learned the lesson of humanistic behavior, our rights, the importance of peaceful coexistence, good manners and tolerance with our own and local people. The most important thing is that we understand the need for peaceful coexistence and we discuss it with our own families, at tea shops and neighbors in various gatherings. Sports and cultural competitions are keeping us engaged in positive activities, reducing the risk of straying, reducing anxiety. Bringing a pleasant atmosphere in the miserable, unhappy camp life gives us hope of a new life. Besides continuing such programs, he also spoke of the need for technical training to improve the life skills of the youth. Other Rohingyas participating in the discussion also expressed hope that the government and donor organizations can play a role ensuring "peaceful coexistence" if the government and donor organizations come forward to improve the quality and efficiency of local affected Bangladeshis, considering the financial and environmental damage.

## Cohesion Committee's Camp Follow Up Visit to See Progress in Peaceful Co-existence Situation



*Atikul Islam, Camp In-charge of Kutupalong Camp-1 (East & West) was speaking to the different Rohingya Groups.*

The Social Cohesion Committee visited the camp again to check the progress of peaceful co-existence after their 1<sup>st</sup> camp visit, including FGDs conducted with different Rohingya groups of Majhis, Imams and Youths. During the follow up visit to the camps, they again sat and talked with the different Rohingya groups. At this time, different Groups of Rohingyas were asked separately what roles were they playing from their positions. They said they are always careful not to create problems among themselves and with the locals. They also conveyed that they discuss about the peaceful coexistence points within their families and with the neighbors as well. If they failed to solve problems, they would try to solve it through site management and camp in-charges. The Imams conveyed that they discuss how to avoid trouble in a peaceful way in the mosque. They ask Rohingyas to follow the rules of the camp. The Rohingya youths said they stay inside and near their own camp area to avoid trouble. They don't get into any temptation or trap and keep patience and treat everyone well. Then the Cohesion Committee sat with camp-in-charge at the briefing meeting and discussed the information with them. The CICs commented that the less the Rohingya unrest will occur and the less complaints are received in the CIC office, the effectiveness of the 'peaceful co-existence' project will be understood. They also praised the project ideas and activities.

**Sports and Cultural Competition at Camp Level Having Positive Responds Among Rohingyas**



*A moment during the football match among Rohingya Youths at camp 21, Whykong, Teknaf.*



*Md. Sirazul Haque, Asst. CIC, CAMP 21 & 22, Whykong, Teknaf was giving away the prizes among the winners.*

A total of 4 Sports and cultural competition at 4 camps in Ukhia and Teknaf have been organized to promote peaceful co-existence. The purpose of the events was to improve

their internal relations, to promote sports and cultural activities, to relieve them from frustration, to give pleasure of the Rohingya children, young and old through engaging them in cultural and sports events utilizing their lazy time, to prevent them from committing unsocial and criminal acts, etc.

There were songs, jokes and extempore speech competition, music ball games, run race competitions for Rohingya teenagers. There were also football games, run race competition for the youths. The run race competition and basketball games were also arranged for the old people. At each camp program, camp in charges, site management representatives, Rohingya majhis, imams and Rohingyas of different ages enjoyed these programs being present. During this time, there was a joyful and festive atmosphere among the Rohingyas in the camp. And they requested to organize such events at regular basis. At the end of the competition, the prize giving ceremony among the winners and discussion program was arranged on the importance of sports and cultural activities for peaceful living. "Such program is needed for peaceful coexistence, the local community should also be included in such arrangements" said chief guest Kazi Faruque, who is also the in-charge of camp 14 (Hakim Para) and camp 15 (Jamtali).

**Target and achievement table of the month September 2019**

SL	Activities	Target	Achievement
01	Sessions conduct at educational institutions	06	03
02	Sports and Cultural Program at Edu. Institutions	04	04
03	Social Cohesion Committees Follow Up Camp Visit	8	8
04	Camp Level Session	20	20
05	Cohesion Committees Camp Visit	4	4
06	Game Materials Distribution	25	25

To make this newsletter all colleagues of 'Improving Peaceful Coexistence Project' helped providing necessary data and information.

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