

The bulletin on the activities of the 'Improving Social Cohesion Project'. The project is being implemented by the COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR to improve 'Social Cohesion' among Host and Rohingya Communities at Rajapalong, Palongkhali, Whykong, Hnila unions and respective 8 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

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Host community people showed interest in social cohesion to ensure peaceful coexistence until Rohingya repatriation

COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR has implemented the project named "Improving Peaceful Co-existence among Host and Rohingya" in 2019. Aftermath of the implementation of the project, an impact seen in the both community which is demanding the improvement of Social Cohesion among Host and Rohingya. With the agreement between COAST and UNHCR a project is implementing namely "Improving Social Cohesion among Host and Rohingya Community".

To involve host community people with the project activities and to share project activities, project sharing meetings were organized at Ukhiya and Teknaf separately.

On February 19, 2020, Wednesday at 12 pm, ISC project sharing meeting was organized in participation with local stakeholders and other inhabitants at Kanjorpara High School hall room at Whykong union, Teknaf in Cox's bazar. In the meeting in total 40 people from different class, profession and background (Including imam, UP chairman, members, teacher, journalist, social workers) were present, out of those 36 were male and 4 were female.



Nur Ahmed Anwari, Chairman Whykong Union, was delivering his valuable speech on project sharing meeting. PC: Md. Yunus

Nur Ahmed Anwari, Chairman Whykong Union, said, "We are pleased with COAST Trust for delivering our speech to the higher authorities through different programs and this year they will do so. We have to think of something that will support to continue social cohesion among both the communities. Host community community leaders should be engaged with the project activities as they have influence in society to maintain social cohesion. On the other hand, the people who were affected seriously should be given some opportunities to make over their problem."

Chief guest **Ferdaus Ahmed Jamiri**, vice chairman of Teknaf Upazilla, said, "We are satisfied with the project activities but the activities are limited. More educational institutions should be included and working areas should

be enriched. Including Religious leaders of Rohingya camps is a great idea. I think all the imams should be instructed to preach the message of social cohesion through the light of Al-Quran and Al-Hadith.

On February 24, 2020, Monday at 11 am another sharing meeting of ISC project organized with the participation of 48 local stakeholders from different profession and background (Including imam, UP chairman, members, teacher, journalist, social workers) at Ukhiya Upazilla of Cox's Bazar.

The program started with the introductory speech of **Zahangir Alam**, assistant director- social cohesion of COAST Trust. After presenting the project activities, he invited all to work together for the betterment of Cox's Bazar.

Kamrunnesa Bebi, vice chairman of Ukhia Upazila Women, said, "The Rohingya crisis is an international problem. We have no way to solve this crisis. We should all be aware and behave like a mature. Because both communities need no conflict-free status until they are being repatriate. So that there is no unpleasant situation. I think the Rohingyas need a lot of moral education. Thanks to Coast and UNHCR. Besides these, other international NGOs and NGOs should work for locals."



Mr. Amimul Ahsan Khan UNO (Acting) Ukhiya Upazilla was speaking on project sharing meeting at Ukhiya Upazilla. P.C: Julfikar

Mr. Amimul Ahsan Khan UNO (Acting) Ukhiya Upazilla said that at the beginning of the Rohingya crisis, people in this region sheltered Rohingyas for humanitarian reasons. That is why Bangladesh has been praised worldwide and our Prime Minister has been named mother of humanity. Things are changing over time. We need patience and confidence in this situation. I believe that UN, NGOs, international NGOs should pay more attention to the development of the most vulnerable sectors in the region along with Rohingya.

Among others social cohesion committee also present there and delivered their observation of Rohingya camp visit and union level social monitoring visit. At the ending

of the meeting, participants wrote their recommendation through brief card.

Interactive Sessions are playing vital role in developing human values among students



Enamul Haque, union coordinator of ISC project was presenting the articles of human rights before students of Chakboitha High School.

To promote human rights and create awareness through learning, Improving Social Cohesion Project of COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR organized eighteen interactive sessions in six educational institutions of Ukhiya and Teknaf in the month of February. Each session consists of fifty students of class eight, nine and ten separately. All the participants were facilitated with leaflets on the topics “Definition of Human Rights and Importance of Peaceful Coexistence” and “Definition of Refugee Rights, Bangladesh Government’s Outlook towards Forcibly Displaced Myanmar National and Our Responsibilities from Humanitarian Aspect”. Sessions started with the presence of teachers and students by the anchoring of Improving Peaceful Coexistence Project representatives. At the beginning of the session they presented overall description of the event, introduction to COAST and work plans of the project. Teachers were requested to present their opinion. From students, some of them were invited to read out both the leaflets respectively when anchor described those in detail. At the ending of the session, best three responders selected the teacher are given prize.

Participation of different groups of Rohingya community with Social Cohesion is ensured by the mapping and engaging with improving social cohesion project activities.



Laky Akter, associate of Community Based Protection, was delivering her speech during the meeting. P.C; Nezam Uddin

Improving Social Cohesion project of COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR mapped and assessed different groups of Rohingya community such as; community leader, imam, youth and women with the coordination of CBP (Community Based Protection). From each of selected camps (Camp- 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 14,15,21,22) of Ukhiya and

Teknaf 4 groups were selected. Considering their capacity of influencing people and ineligancy the groups were engaged with the recommendation of Community Based Protection and other participants. They will play vital role to ensure social cohesion among both the communities.

Different groups of Rohingya community committed to work for social cohesion

Improving Social Cohesion Project of COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR organized introductory meeting with the groups engaged with the project activities. During the meeting, their role to improve social cohesion is described by the project team. Every group was consisted of 9 members of 4 different category along with majhi, imam, youth and women. This groups are selected through Mapping and Engaging community-based groups of Rohingya community with social cohesion activities. Ahammad Ullah describe the outline of program's activities and their responsibilities. He says “the objective of this project is to foster social cohesion involving both the host and Rohingya community until repatriation and Contributed in creating an environment of peaceful coexistence between host and Rohingya community, to implement some social projects for both communities through discussion with the Rohingya social cohesion group and the host social cohesion committee ”.



Tanjir Uddin Roni, D&E Officer of ISC project was delivering his speech on the role of Rohingya community groups. P.C; Shahazahan

Aman Ullah, head majhi of Camp says, it will be a great initiative for both community and if activities are implemented properly it will create an environment of peaceful coexistence between host and Rohingya community we are interested to be part of this project.

Target and achievement table of February, 2020

SL	Activities	Target	Achievement
01	Project Sharing Meeting	2	2
02	Interactive Session	18	18
03	Mapping and Engaging Rohingya community groups	8	8
04	Introductory Meeting of Rohingya community groups	4	4

To make this newsletter all colleagues of ‘Improving Social Cohesion Project’ helped providing necessary data and information.

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