

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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**Ukhiya and Teknaf UP bodies, Teachers, Journalists, Imams, and Civil Society started working to improve social cohesion between the host and Rohingya community.**

To keep a peaceful environment between host and Rohingya community social cohesion is an asking question to improve. Keeping in mind that question COAST Trust organized a refreshers training on 23rd and 25th of July for the Social Cohesion Promotion Committee as a part of project activity with the support of UNHCR. The training was held separately at the Ukhiya Upazilla hall room and Kanjorpara High School in Whykong, Teknaf. In the training, a total of 36 participants came to know about their role and responsibilities and how they work to improve social cohesion between the host and Rohingya community. Social Cohesion Promotion Committee (Host community) and Social Cohesion Promotion Group (Rohingya Community) will have dialogues to find out the risk factors which hamper the social cohesion and implement projects to mitigate. Participants have already



The photo captured during the refresher training of Social Cohesion Promotion Committee at Ukhiya Upazilla Hallroom. P.C: Julfikar

started working on the issues.

"There is no alternative rather live both communities peacefully until repatriation. And for that, we civil society and concern people from the society should work to create awareness for improving social cohesion"-said Zahangir Alam, Assistant Director, Social Cohesion Project, COAST Trust. **Nur Ahamed Anouari, Chairman of Whykong union Parishad** says "the host community lost their land due to staying Rohingya here. A negative idea is being created in the host community people's minds to Rohingya people because of delayed their sustained repatriation processing. Youths of the host community are not getting proper job opportunities, the behavioral problems of the uneducated Rohingya people can be a barrier to peaceful coexistence. We must work on these issues to create a peaceful environment between both communities". Among the participants UP chairman, UP member, Teachers, Imam, Social workers, Journalists, and Women leaders were present in the training as SPC members.

**During union level, interactive sessions on human rights, Chairman of Hnila Union Parishad disclosed the reason for sympathy toward Rohingya people.**

Every human has equal rights in the world. But most people don't know what those rights are. COAST Trust is raising awareness among the host community people in Ukhiya and Teknaf about human rights with the support of UNHCR. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 COAST Trust organizes two different sessions in Ukhiya and Teknaf separately. A total



Rashed Mahmud Ali, Chairman of Hnila union Parishad was presenting his opinion during the union level session on human rights. P.C: Md. Younus

of 40 participants attends the session. In the session, participants came to know about 30 sections of human rights and the importance of social cohesion between host and Rohingya communities.

**Rashed Mahmud Ali, Chairman of Hnila union Parishad** said, "Rohingyas are helpless and homeless that's why we have become sympathized with them. It is a part of human rights and we must cultivate it. We should promote human rights widely."

#### Activity target and achievement, July 2020

Sl	Activity Name	Target	Achievement
1	Refreshers training of social cohesion promotion committee at the host community.	1	1
2	Union level interactive session	4	4

**To make this newsletter all colleagues of 'Improving Social Cohesion Project' helped to provide necessary data and information.**

**For more details about the publication, please contact: "Social Cohesion Project", Cox's Bazar Management and Training Center**

**Phone: 0341-63186, Mobile: 01713328827**

**Email: [jahangir.coast@gmail.com](mailto:jahangir.coast@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.coastbd.net](http://www.coastbd.net).**