

32th (October) Edition, Date 31/ 10/ 2020, COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme for Host community and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar district, Ukhaia Relief Operation Centre, Ukhaia, Cox's Bazar

The COAST Trust, with the support of UNICEF, is implementing the COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response programme (CEPRP) in 7 camps and 3 unions in Ukhaia and Teknaf Upazilas to protect the children of the local and Rohingya communities in Cox's Bazar district. The duration of the project is from 13 May to 12 November 2020. To protect children and adolescents from the Covid-19 epidemic, the project provides case management services, psychosocial services, distribution of leaflets as part of awareness campaigns, installation of billboards, use of posters and IEC materials, as well as providing referral services to reduce gender-based violence. This will enable the project beneficiaries to be aware of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Halima finally reunified with her mother



During Halima Bibi was being handed over to her mother. Photo By: Tofayel (case Volunteer) Camp-8E

Rehana Begum, 18-year-old teenage mother. She has a 2-year-old daughter. They have been living in Camp-8E since 2017. At the age of sixteen, she married a young man named Md. Taher. When Rehana's daughter was 6 months old, her husband got involved in adultery and divorced her. The shadow of sorrow descends on her life. She returned to her father's house with her children. Since Rehana has a step-mother, she lives in a separate house. Thus, her life was spent in despair and misery. She has received sessions on life skills, psychosocial services and positive childcare from COAST Trust case management services. As a result, she began to be mentally normal. Suddenly one morning in October, Rehana called the COAST Trust case worker and told her that her daughter Halima could not be found anywhere. Upon receiving the news, the case worker and her volunteer went out to look for Halima. After searching for different blocks, they finally found her in block 39. Halima was then handed over to her mother in the presence of Assistant Camp-in-Charge Mr. Ahsan Habib, block Majhi and other agencies.

Assistant Camp-in-Charge Mr. Ahsan Habib said, "Such initiative of COAST Trust is really commendable and all kinds of cooperation from me will continue in such work". Rehana Begum expressed her gratitude to the COAST Trust for getting her child back.

Community members are working to build a safe community for children



Imam Noor Mohammad is discussing steps of prevention about child trafficking at Camp 20 ext. Photo: Fazlul Karim, CM-camp-20ext

The direct and indirect initiatives of CBCPC members, PCC members and Imams of the project, children and adolescents in various camps and host communities are being protected from the risk of child protection. The issue has come up in the achievement analysis of the ongoing project. It is seen that 61 cases of child marriage, 11 child trafficking, 104 child labor, 53 eve-teasing, and 44 drug use have been protected. Their direct initiatives have resolved 14 gender-based violence. They have also played a direct role in repairing 11 bridges and roads. They have referred 76 adolescents to the concerned department of the project and other agencies for case management and psychosocial Services. They have contributed to the creation of public awareness on child protection by distributing leaflets from house to house. Besides,

they have planted 207 different types of trees in different places by their own initiative to protect the natural environment. In addition, the CBCPC, PCC, Imam and Peer Leaders have collaborated to spread awareness messages on child protection risks among about 5500 adolescents and 2800 elderly citizens which has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of project activities.

COVID-19 Adolescent Kits are helping to reduce the stress of adolescents



A picture drawn by teenager Kasmida (16) during kit practice, Camp-12. Photo by Margina, LSBF

At present, due to COVID-19, adolescents are spending lazy time at home. They are facing various physical and mental stress. During this time, they can stay busy and use their time creatively to learn new things. To implement UNICEF's COVID-19 Adolescent Kit at the field level, 1,000 adolescents have been selected from 7 camps and 3 host communities. This kit has already been provided to everyone so that they can practice at home on their own. Our LSB facilitators and volunteers are assisting adolescents to perform module tasks. So far, the program has been conducted for 5 weeks. Issues practiced so far by using the adolescent kits such as "sound and silence", "inside and outside of us", "I have mine and I can", "what we do", "stories of birds", "insects and animals", "maps of relationships" etc. Practicing these kits will increase their listening, understanding and comprehension skills which will help them adapt to the difficult environment. Moreover, the practice of adaptive and inspirational cards will contribute to the development of creative thinking and skills. Rafika (14), Kasmida (16), Shahina (16), Md. Zubair (18), Forkan (15) and Zakir (13) said that they are very happy to participate in this activity. "We are learning a lot of new things and we hope we can practice all the work of this kit"- they added.

Inspired Rohingya adolescent Nur Kalima



Nur Kalima, a Rohingya adolescent is making rope- hanged garden using home-made materials. Photo-Margina, LSBF

Nur Kalima (14) is a Rohingya girl. She is living with her family in Camp-12. She joined COST Trust COVID-19 Adolescent Kit implementation activities since last September as an adolescent and regularly takes part in various practical activities. She loves to practice the work of adolescent kit. Encouraged by the adaptive inspiration card's vertical gardening practice, she created vertical gardens with discarded plastic bottles, clay, and other materials. She is very happy to do this. She says that the adolescent kit tasks are very easy and fun to do.

Indoor games are having a positive effect on the healthy mental development of adolescents

In the COVID-19 situation, psychosocial workers are conducting various sessions as well as practicing



A demo session on "Helping others"- led by Sinara, Camp-12. Photo- Afroza Hasnat Shimul

various indoor games such as ludo, puzzles, etc. To alleviate the boredom, loneliness, frustration, fear and to achieve healthy mental development among the adolescents. The adolescents are not able to participate in gossiping, chats and sports with friends at multipurpose centers due to COVID-19. As a result,

they are feeling monotony, loneliness and despair. Therefore, the indoor games are more effective for adolescents to overcome such problems. Practicing this has resulted in their healthy mental development which has come up in various home base sessions.

Dreams framed on the wheel of sewing machine



Teenager Naima Bibi is busy in making masks. Photo By: Iqbal Musharraf, FC-camp-20ext

Naima Bibi (18) is a young girl who has creative talent in this early stage of her life. She lives with her parents in the Camp-20 extension. She has a dream of becoming self-reliant. So, she took part in the life skills-based sessions long with 6months tailoring and dress making training at the COST Trust Multipurpose Center. Later she received a sewing machine from the World Food Program (WFP) through CIC in collaboration with the COAST Trust. As a result, her dream came true. She started running on the path of dreams. At present she is earning money by sewing thami, lungi, salwar kameez, shirt, and mask. Naima Bibi said, "Rohingya women in Rakhine State do not have the opportunity to go out of their homes but when they came to this camps, their eyes were opened". They are encouraged to see local and foreign women doing various kinds of work in the camps. She thinks that there is no acceptable job for Rohingya women other than sewing work and money can be earned by sewing at home. In training, I learned to sewing - Thami, Lungi, Shirt, Salowar kameez and Maxi- she added. So far, I have not been able to earn money by sewing clothes at home due to lack of sewing machine. But now the dream of becoming self-reliant is being fulfilled by getting a sewing machine. 'I get 15 rupees for each cloth mask. Naima's mother Nur Begum (40) said, "Life does not stop for anyone. Rohingya women are also learning to stand on their own two feet".

International Day of girl child has been observed at the Multipurpose Center



A group of Rohingya adolescent girls enjoying inspirational documentary during the international girl child day at camps-14, Photo by: Jowel, FMO

International Day of girl child has been celebrated on a small scale on 11 October 2020 at the camp and Host COAST operated MPCs with the themes "We are all vocal, the world will be equal". On 25th anniversary of the day, it has been observed all over the world hoping the safe, secured and wellbeing of girls. UNICEF provided overall support for the celebration of the day. As part of the program, events like displaying pictures and movie shows have arranged for the adolescents. Besides, painting, essay competition, comment writing and discussion were arranged in the events. A meeting has been organized with the civil society and the locals. A total of 110 adolescents participated in the program. The guests have discussed the significance of the day. Mr. Golan Mohiul Haque, a teacher of the local high school, said "the participation of women is very important for the balanced of development in the society. So, they have to play a courageous role in eradicating social barriers".

Project activities at a glance (May to October 2020)

| SL | Name of activities | Achievement |
|----|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Case management | 345 |
| 2 | Psychosocial Support | 3403 |
| 3 | Awareness based home session | 10232 |
| 4 | PCC awareness session | 8890 |
| 5 | CBCPC awareness session | 1292 |

For additional information, please contact: Md. Tajul Islam, Project. Manager, **COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme (CEPRP)**, Mobile: 0172-624815, E-mail: tajulislam.coast@gmail.com