

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 Rohingya and Host communities at Rajapalong, Whykong, Hnila unions and 5 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Meeting with Bazar Management Committee

Kutupalong bazar management committee is working to maintain peaceful relations



Helal Uddin, UP member of 9 no ward spoke at the meeting on the overall condition of the Kutupalong Bazar. Photo-Mo: Shahjahan.

Kutupalong Bazar Management Committee meeting was held under the social cohesion project implemented by COAST in collaboration with UNHCR. A total of 21 people including all members of the management committee were present at the meeting held on April 13th presided by of local UP member Helal Uddin. The meeting discussed the Rohingyas' visit to Kutupalong bazar, peaceful coexistence between the two community, human rights and the problems existing between the two communities in the market and what needs to be done to resolve them. Prior to the meeting, the project staff conducted a survey at Kutupalong Bazaar. The survey conducted on various people including local and Rohingya small and floating traders, consumers, local UP members, local people give an overall picture of the existing relationship between Rohingya and local people in Kutupalong bazar. The survey also identified some of the existing problems between the Rohingya and the locals. Speakers at the meeting, which was organized as part of an awareness-raising program to maintain peaceful coexistence between the two communities. At this time the speakers drew the attention of the upazila administration to keep law and order situation and traffic system in the bazar. Helal Uddin, chairman of the Kutupalong bazar management committee and a local UP member, said “Just as the Rohingyas are being deprived of their rights and living a dehumanized life, so too are the disadvantages of the locals due to the Rohingyas. We need to give equal importance to these two issues. If these two issues are not balanced, there is a possibility of conflict between the two communities”.



Rohingyas come to my shop. Sometimes there are fights, quarrels, etc. in the bazar for many reasons. It is between the Rohingyas and the locals and also between themselves. We shopkeepers solve all this. "

Nurul Amin, wholesaler at
Kutupalong bazar

A survey was conducted in Kutupalong market to determine the existing problems and issues between Rohingya and locals. A total of 30 locals and Rohingyas participated in it. A local wholesaler said, “Rohingyas come to my shop, go to the market and leave. Sometimes there are fights, quarrels, etc. in the market for many reasons. It is between the Rohingyas and the locals, it is between themselves. We shopkeepers solve all this. Over time, relations between the two communities deteriorated. More NGOs along the coast should work to ensure that relations do not deteriorate further and that peaceful relations between the two countries are maintained. ”

Session with religious leaders

“All religion speaks of peace, harmony and human rights” Assis Kumar- Religion Teacher



Buddhist teacher Bimal Barua talks about peaceful coexistence with Rohingyas in the meeting. Photo-Ahmed Ullah

In April 2022, the COAST Foundation organized two meetings with 30 local religious leaders on issues related to peaceful coexistence, harmony and raising awareness of human rights in the light of religious perspectives. The meeting was held to raise awareness among the religious leaders about human rights, social connectivity and social peace and to make the general public aware on the uttered issues. The participants discussed human rights, social connectivity and ways to improve it. He also provided guidance on the development of social peace and social security on the Rohingya issue. Ashish Kumar, a teacher of Hinduism at Ali Achiya High School said in a meeting at Noyapara, Whykong Project Office that "religious education does not create chaos or unrest, because all religions speak of peace, harmony and human rights."

Meeting with local clubs

COAST’s social cohesion project is working to motivate youth club members to increase youth participation in social activities and ensure peaceful coexistence.



Club members after the meeting. Photo Credit-Shajahan

COAST Foundation, in collaboration with UNHCR, organized quarterly planning meetings on April 18, 19 and 24, 2022 with members of three local clubs in Ukha and Teknaf Upazilas. A total of 90 club members were present at the 3 separate meetings of PRATTASHA, Damdamiya Yubo Kallyan Samiti and Lambabil Khira Parishad. At the meeting, each club outlined their future social work plans. Besides, they also faced some challenges in developing social cohesion. Both the project staff and the club members come up with an action plan to address the challenges and what needs to be done to address them. In addition, each club highlighted the overall achievements of their social and voluntary activities in 2021.

Activity Target and Achievement 2022

Activity Name	Target	Achievement
Meeting with Bazar management committee	1	1
RLM	2	2
Meeting with Local clubs	3	3
Need Assessment Approval	5 Camps	3 Camps

The camp in-charges of Camp 1 East, 1 West and 26 have recommended in the Need Assessment Letter for the implementation of social cohesion project in 2022.

For more details about the publication, please contact:



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