

**Project Name** : “Youth Of Ukhiya Towards Headways (YOUTH)”

**Impact Assessment Duration** : 18<sup>th</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020



*Focus Group Discussin (FGD) at 1no. Ghat, Ukhiyar Ghat, Balukhali in Ukhiya; Photo: Md. Arif Ullah, Program Officer, YOUTH project*

#### **A. Introduction:**

This assessment process was mainly conducted to identify the impact of YOUTH project. It is mentionable here that this analysis is covered the mentioned project that was Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) funded and implemented by COAST Trust for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. That was the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this project.

To confirm a worthy alignment with the goal, outcome and projected results/outputs of the project, we have reorganized some of the Evaluative Questions (EQ). Finally, we ended up with 2 FGDs and 18 Key Evaluative Questions (KEQs) that have been used during the assessment process and are reflected in this report.

#### **B. Objectives of the Impact Assessment:**

The specific objectives of this impact assessment are:

1. To assess the standard of the achieved outcome and expected results of the project.
2. To assess the effect of the project on the targeted beneficiaries and their environment.
3. To analyze the level to which the project was succeeded to ensure meaningful participation of the targeted beneficiaries.
4. To identify key good practices and key lessons learnt based on the assessment findings.

## **C. Methodology:**

### **1. Impact Assessment Approach:**

- i. **Selection of Impact Assessment Team:**

The impact assessment team was made of a central office staff, two M&E officers and one program officer. They studied the outcome and effect of the project through the beneficiaries' experiences, by interacting with them to understand their perceptions and presenting the findings in a descriptive manner.
- ii. **Documents review :**

During the analysis period, necessary project documents were reviewed and collected for further usage.
- iii. **Personal Interview :**

We conducted 18 personal interviews to the direct beneficiaries and also the indirect beneficiaries who were involved with the project directly from the beginning. For personal interview, individual questionnaire was developed.
- iv. **Focus Group Discussion :**

As per planning, 2 FGDs were organized. In each of the session, 10 participants were attended.
- v. **Field visit and Observation :**

Apart from the personal interview and FGD, the team also visited project youth learning and follow up centers to get a better understanding about the activity in the centers.
- vi. **Case Studies:**

Two case studies were developed on the impact of both learning and follow up center's training and other activities in the participants', findings of interviews with selected participants, meetings with stakeholders and verification discussion in focus groups.
- vii. **Exit Meeting :**

At the end, the impact analysis was wrapped up with an exit meeting. All project field management team members were present. It was all about sharing the findings that were found during the impact assessment period.

## **D. Project Overview:**

### **i. Background of the project:**

Noting the extensive experience that The COAST Trust has in Bangladeshi communities within Cox's Bazar District, and the desire of NRC to work with not only refugees, but also host communities, a new project proposal will play to the strengths and experience of both organizations. The project will be designed in a way to limit any conflict of interest with the organizations' other donors and partners, and it will be linked up to local CSO and development coordination.

Moreover, since 25 August 2017, 655,000 people have fled Rakhine State, Myanmar, to seek refuge in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Over a short period, the refugee population in Cox's Bazar quadrupled. Besides the challenging needs from the newly arrived families, growing needs from the Rohingya community are putting large pressure on the half a million Bangladeshis living in Cox's Bazar District. This project is linked to the JRP 2018 by targeting groups identified in that Plan as in need of assistance (host community and youth & adolescents).

### **ii. Rationale of the Project:**

COAST conducted a research to identify the impact of Rohingya influx. It has been found that, attendance in schools has been reduced, attendance in Ukhiya College is just about 15%, and many schools are being used as shelters. In Ukhiya 130 Hectares of land were not cultivated this season due to water crisis and pollution. Crops of 100 Hectares land is ruined due to the influx (60H Rice, 20H Vegetables, 10H Betel leaf and 10 others), 35 Hectares cropland are polluted. In Teknaf 76 acres arable land are occupied, no cultivation in 250 Hectares this season due to water crisis and pollution and 58 Hectares cropland are polluted. Wage among the host communities' areas have been decreased from 400-500 to 200-250 BDT (50% decreased), 600 fisher folk families in Ukhiya are out of their regular fishing in the Naf river. As a result, poverty is increasing among the host communities.

Ukhiya was identified as a sub-district with below average performance regarding "net attendance rate of primary education". It is identified as worst regarding "proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility" indicator. Literacy rate of Ukhiya is 39.3%, compared to a national level of 51.8% at. School Attendance is at 46.5% in Ukhiya, while 52.7% is the national level. Thus, it is evident that Ukhiya is lagging behind in terms of total literacy and school attendance rates.

Communities of Ukhiya and Teknaf were the first and fast responders to the humanitarian crisis of the Rohingya people. However, nowadays, these host communities perceive the influxes negatively as the presence of the refugee population takes its toll on a number of areas of the lives and livelihoods of the host communities. Resentment may be rising among the local Bangladesh community because of the increased demand on common services and water in particular and a price hike of essential goods and services. There is also a concern that there are reduced job opportunities and the unskilled wage rate has decreased with extra labor available in the market. Generally, host communities do not consider themselves economically better off than the refugees and many (over 20%) are living below the poverty line. Host communities also reported that livelihoods and infrastructures were severely damaged by Cyclone Mora on May 30, 2017 and they are yet to recover from the crisis.

The host community has provided spaces to the refugees to build temporary shelters. To do that, many members of the host communities have so far experienced losses. Many matured trees were felled in the land that were taken as lease from the government. Spontaneous human movement damaged fields full of crop. With the sharp increase of new entrants in the local market desperately looking for work, the wage of local workers, including those in the construction, deep sea fishing, and vehicle plying sectors, registered a drop. People of all walks of life were faced with a steep rise of price of essentials. Fares of all transportation, including rickshaws, registered an increase by 100 to 200 percent.

Relief activities has increased the rental cost of vans and heavy vehicles, as well as that of flats and houses, by many times. Thus, while the people of Bangladesh in other regions empathize with the hapless Rohingya, and among them the compassionate and active try their best to raise funds for Rohingya relief, it is the people of Ukhiya and Teknaf who are bearing the brunt of the refugee flow.

According to the World Bank, it is an urgent need to support the host communities to cope with the influx as the Rohingya refugee crisis. As mentioned, adolescents of the host community are suffering from various challenges. From one research, it has been found that, the main barrier for girls accessing education is that the host communities cannot afford to send them to school. There is a clear view amongst the respondents (61%), from refugees and the host community, that more boys than girls are being subjected to trafficking risks and practices. In the host community and the host community population groups indicated the highest rates of children engaging in paid and unpaid work (93% and 85% respectively).

Moreover, children, adolescents and women in both the Rohingya and host communities are exposed to high levels of violence, abuse and exploitation including sexual harassment, child labor and child marriage and are at high risk of being trafficked. Finally, more than 730,000 total children aged 4-18 years old are in need of education services.

Though fund allocation for the host communities has already been started, promoting youth empowerment can be one iconic effort to encourage peaceful coexistence between the Rohingya and host communities. In one hand, it will ensure youth empowerment and besides it will help in establishing the interaction between these two communities. To make sure the interaction, linkage meetings, several sport and cultural events with participation with local youth and Rohingya youths will be organized.

In addition another situation which is directly linked with the effect on life of adolescents of these remote areas. With the sudden increase in population, girls of the host are under risks of abuse or trafficking. This makes these girls volatile in a way, and hindering development of their lives in other way. The boys of these area were either students or workers. Because of shortage in vacancy made them unoccupied, as well as, the decline in education system let these people perplexed.

It was found that, many organizations working there, provided a lot of training on different types of income generating subjects. But still there are lacks of scopes for business or scopes of practical doing of the training. Many adolescents attended the training cannot continue or cannot implement the learning because of lacking of support, either materialistic or financial or situational. It is a demand of time now to provide support to continue or go further with the training. It is needed to make scopes for practicing for the adolescents or young learners. This will lead to the decrease of unemployment as well as increase in financial empowerment for adolescents and young. Also, the harmed will get support by their adolescents or young children.

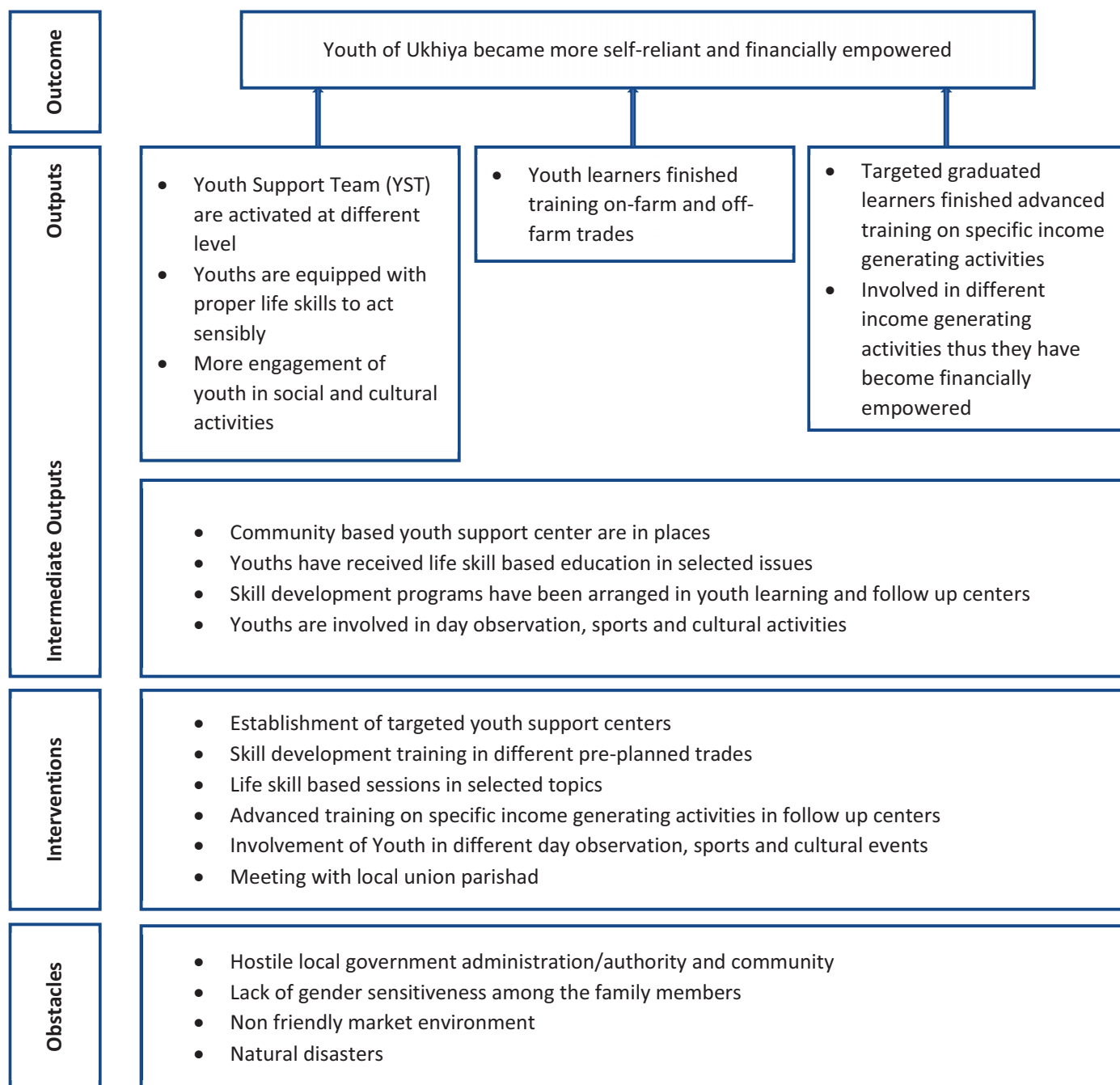
**iii. Project Outcome:**

By end of project, 90% of adolescent/youth ages 14-24 will have passed the course and received a certificate for completing their skills and life skills training course.

**iv. Expected Output/Results:**

- Youth Support Team (YST) are functioning.
- 320 youth learners finished training on-farm and off-farm trades.
- 240 graduated learners finished advanced training on specific income generating activities.

v. Theory of Change (ToC)



E. Key findings:

▪ **Quantitative Achievement:**

The project had effectively accomplished almost all of its quantitative targets except the number of targeted youth reached for the youth support centers in the working area.

The underneath table has been shown the quantitative achievements of the project. It has been developed in relation to the project expected outcome:

Sl	Name of Activities	Cumulative Achievement			
		Target	Achieved	Male	Female
1.	Foundation training (Induction) for all staff	01 batch	01	07	11
2.	Foundation training of center facilitators & Program Supervisors)	01 batch	01	05	08
4.	Day observation	02	02	83	179
5.	Agriculture & livestock training (1st time)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	149	34	115
6.	Agriculture & livestock training (2nd time)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	151	37	114
7.	Sewing machine training (1st time)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	153	37	116
8.	Sewing machine training (2nd time)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	149	34	115
9.	Selective IGA (Computer) (1st time)	150 (1 batch per learning center)	131	40	91
10.	Selective IGA (Computer) (2nd time)	150 (1 batch per learning center)	146	33	113
11.	Driving training	12	12	12	-
12.	YOUTH center closing & certificate ceremony (June 2019)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	156	22	134
13.	YOUTH center closing & certificate ceremony (December 2019)	160 (1 batch per learning center)	158	27	131
14.	Meeting with local Union Parishad	02	02	55	46
15.	Cultural program (2 times)	8 centers	8 centers	17	16
16.	<b>Total center establishment (1 center*20 participants)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**i. Major challenges identified which limited the project achievement:**

- a. The centre time, which was fixed at 2:30 pm wasn't good for all the selected youths especially for girls who came to these centres a little bit away. This issue increased the number of dropped out.
- b. Another valid reason for the above mentioned topic was the refreshment cost. Where the other NGOs and INGOs working in the same community distributed good package, COAST had an insufficient budget allocation in this section.
- c. Those youths who received trade based training from the learning centres couldn't be able to continue their practice to become more proficient because of the distance between the learning centres and the follow up centres. In course of time, they lost their interest.
- d. Additionally COAST had faced difficulty to recruit skilful field staff rather freshers to understand the project actual expectation by their own selves and to work on it.

**▪ Relevance of the project intervention:**

Even though the project have been completed all of its targeted activities in due time. But concerning the efficacy of the project, it needs to be continued for more time at least for 6 months to get the best possible results out of it. The reason is, during this phase COAST established 8 community based learning centers (CBLC) in July 2019 and completed only 6 months course by December 2019. But total duration of the full course is one year. The first six months focus on several life skill based education (LSBE) and technical basic

education like agriculture & livestock, tailoring, computer operation on MS Office and electrical training in these centers. But the follow up and to strengthen their technical skill to the advance level were not planned. So, to complete the full course and as per center standard, another six months is required to complete the full cohort.

▪ **The effect of the project interventions:**

The youth support centers were perfectly well decorated with different learning materials. Surely it brought a suitable environment and as well as a positive attitude among the participants. More precisely the centers visited were active evidenced by regular meetings, attendances registers, minutes of meetings and action plans. Besides the project team were efficient in the sense of communication and coordination with the parents of the participants. Besides COAST has built a strong relationship with the members of the YST centers. They are committed to their work. More importantly these members are representative of the communities and included many female members. All these stated issues had a great influence to achieve the expected results ultimately to achieve the outcome of the project.

**Expected Results of the project and Team members' observation sharing:**

SI	Expected Results	Progress made clearly during the reporting period	Observation
01	Establishing 14 centers for 560 adolescent/youth	In 14 Youth centers (8 learning centers and 6 follow up centers), the project covered 498 youth	Through discussion with the centers teachers, project staff and with the YST members, it has come out that from each centers some of the registered youths were dropped out because of the distance between the learning and follow centers. Another reason was for getting better facilities they were involved with other NGOs or INGOs in similar types of activities.
02	320 youth learners finished training on-farm and off-farm trades	314 youth learners finished their skill development training	After reviewing the project documents, it has been found that 314 youth learners received their skill development training and got certificate. But to involve in income generating activities in the market level, they need to be even more skilled and that's why the project period are needed to be extended.
03	240 graduated learners finished advanced training on specific income generating activities	240 graduated learners finished advanced training on specific income generating activities	After reviewing the register of follow up centers at sample basis, it has been found the correctness of the reported numbers which are given earlier.

Though the project is focusing on the issue of youth's self-reliant and economic empowerment. So, youth support centers absolutely have a great imperative role/responsibility to avail the project expected outcome. Now the strong points and areas to be improved of these youth centers are given below:

SI No.	Strong points	Could be improved
01	Learning the bad effects of early/child marriage	Some YST members suggested to add mobile phone repairing and hospitality management
02	Learning about human trafficking	Driving training was just for 15 days. It would have been better if the training went for 2 months.
03	Became aware about self-protection & personal hygiene	For learning center's participants, they urged for a specific course for a certain time. It will

		help them to be skilled enough to fight in the market with their product/skill.
<b>04</b>	Learning on the difference between good touch and bad touch	
<b>05</b>	Context based selective IGA training	

**F. Questions to the beneficiary, answers and findings:**

**1. Was feedback taken from you during the project period?**

All the interviewees answered yes.

**2. Are you satisfied about the project facilities?**

All of them said that they are happy about the given facilities. But they urged that it would be better if the duration of IGA training were extended for a certain time.

**3. Were they informed about COAST complaint response mechanism?**

In reply, all of them said that they are well informed about COAST complaint response mechanism. Even the particular phone numbers are hanged at every youth support center's wall.

**4. Did you utilize the learned life skill education and IGA training effectively?**

All the interviewees answered that they utilized the learned life skill education and IGA training effectively. But it would be good if the duration of IGA training for a little bit longer.

**5. Did the COAST employee had ever shared or discussed about the way of their behavior with all of you?**

It was a critical question regarding COAST standard for accountability and quality management. 100% of the interviewees responded that COAST employee discussed on the mentioned topic with them.

**6. Did the COAST employee ever discussed about the protection of sexual harassment/ child abuse with all of you?**

All of the beneficiaries who were interviewed knew about COAST approaches/movement counter to sexual harassment/child abuse.

**7. Did the COAST employee ever discussed about Risk assessment process with all of you?**

All of the beneficiaries who were interviewed were properly informed about this process.

*[N.B. Apart from that we asked several questions by the setting of exact indicators to measure the changes at their present awareness level which will finally helped them to become self-reliant and economically empowered.]*

**G. Lessons Learned:**

During visiting time, the team tried to scrutinize and identified several lessons learnt from different stages and stakeholders e.g. project implementation level, stakeholder level and Management level. Among them some identified lessons learnt were positive and some were needed to be improved.

**A. Project Implementation level:**



**a. Positive Aspect:**

- i. Considering Rohingya influx, this type of awareness based and as well as skill development project is one of the most highly demandable in Ukhiya upazila.
- ii. Effective community engagement.
- iii. The learned issues are very much essential in their daily life.

**b. Areas to be improved:**

- i. Duration of IGA training should be extended.

**B. Stakeholder Level:**

**a. Positive Aspect:**

- i. At the visiting time, it has been seen effective working relationship with the local stakeholders. They helped us by providing necessary information, engaged with different project activities and more responsive towards our feedback.

**b. Area to be improved:**

- i. Throughout the project period, there wasn't a single meeting arranged with the key stakeholders except the inception and phase closing meeting. So, it should be added to stay they updated.

**C. Management Level:**

**a. Positive Aspect:**

- i. Sincere to work for achieving the project goal.
- ii. Project activities were implemented as per planning.

**b. Limitations:**

- i. As the project area was far away from Project implementation unit (PIU) office. So, to monitor the whole projected area simultaneously were difficult.
- ii. Knowledge gap was also a factor from field the level.

## H. Case Study:



*Tafura talking about the struggle of her life with the Assessment team. Photo: Mojammel, M&E officer, COAST Trust*

### **Tafura become self-reliant by getting IGA training**

Tafura, an adolescent at the North-Rahmoter bill, An Youth support Center of palongkhali union under Ukhiya upazila. She got married four years ago at the age of 16. She had a wonderful family life with a child and a husband. But In mid-2018, her husband was become jobless due to lack of working opportunities. Tafura was suffering from inferiority complex. The whole thing was that she couldn't do anything for her family.

After engaging with COAST Trust youth center, she took life skills education and IGA training from here. She was successfully completed the course of sewing machine training. Then she received 8500 taka from COAST Trust. And bought a sewing machine. For extensive training, she joined in the follow up center to take a deeper understanding of sewing machines training. Now she can contribute in her family's income by earning 2000 to 3000 taka per month.

She is grateful to COAST Trust and wishes that the other participants will also be economically solvent after completing courses from the centers.

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## Annexure 01: Impact assessment Questionnaire.

### উপকারভোগীর জন্য প্রশ্ন

নাম: .....	নারী / পুরুষ	বয়স: .....	
ঠিকানা: .....	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা:	মোবাইল:	
১. প্রকল্প তৈরিতে উপকারভোগীদের সাথে বসা ও মতামত নেয়া হয়েছে কি না?	হা	না	
২. মতামত নেয়া হলে সেই অনুযায়ী প্রকল্পের কাজ সাজানো হয়েছে কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
৩. প্রকল্প চলাকালীন আপনাদের কাছ থেকে মতামত নেয়া হয় কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
৪. প্রকল্পের সেবাগুলো সম্পর্কে বলতে পারেন কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
৫. আপনি/আপনারা সেবা গ্রহণ করে খুশি কি না?	হা	না	
৬. না হলে কেন খুশি নন?.....			
৭. অভিযোগ নথর জানান কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
৮. আপনি জীবন দক্ষতা বিষয়ক সেশন এবং প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়ে থাকলে তার সঠিক ব্যবহার করতে পেরেছেন কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
৯. ব্যাখ্যা করুন? .....			
১০. আপনি আইজিএ প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়ে থাকলে তার সঠিক ব্যবহার করতে পেরেছেন কি না?		হা	না
১১. ব্যাখ্যা করুন?			
১২. সচেতনতামূলক প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়ে আপনার কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
১৩. হলে কি ধরনের পরিবর্তন.....			
১৪. প্রকল্পের কর্মীরা তাদের আচরণ আপনাদের সাথে কেমন হবে সে বিষয়ে কখনও আলোচনা করেছেন কি?	হা	না	জানিনা
১৫. প্রকল্পে যৌন হয়রনি/নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধ ইত্যাদি সম্পর্কে কখনও আলোচনা হয়েছে কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা
১৬. প্রকল্পের নেতিবাচক প্রভাব/ বার্থতা নিয়ে আপনার মতামত.....			
১৭. কোন কার্যক্রম উন্নত করলে (Area to be improved) তা পরবর্তী প্রকল্পের জন্য ভালো হবে?			
১৮. প্রকল্পে আপনাদের সাথে নিয়ে ঝুঁকি নিরূপণ করা হয় কি না?	হা	না	জানিনা

২টি কেসস্টাডি সংগ্রহ- (বার্থতা ও সফলতা) ছবিসহ

### কর্মীদের জন্য প্রশ্ন

১. উপকার ভোগীর মতামত নেয়া হলে সেগুলোর ডকুমেন্টেশন আছে কি না?                   হা                   না
২. না হলে কেন? .....
৩. প্রকল্পের লক্ষ্য ও অর্জন ঠিক মতো বাস্তবায়ন করা গেছে কি না?                   হা                   না
৪. না হলে কোন কাজ ও কেন (তালিকা দেখুন) ? .....
৫. স্টাচেস্টার রিকয়ারমেন্ট ও রিপোর্টিং ডকুমেন্টেশন ঠিক মতো আছে কি না? (হার্ড ও ছফট কপি)                   হা                   না
৬. বার্ন রেট: ....                   কর্মসূচি.....                   প্রশাসনিক .....

### প্রশিক্ষণ গ্রহণকারীদের জন্য প্রশ্ন

১. আপনার প্রশিক্ষণের নাম কি ছিল?                   বলতে পেরেছে                   পারে নাই
২. যদি পারে, তাহলে প্রশিক্ষণের বিষয়গুলো কি ছিল?                   বলতে পেরেছে                   পারে নাই
৩. প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে আপনার কি লাভ হয়েছে?.....
৪. লাভ না হলে কেন?.....

### ইভালুয়েশনকারীর জন্য গাইড লাইন

১. যতদূর সম্ভব বেশি সংখ্যক উপকারভোগীদের সাথে সাক্ষাতকার নেয়ার চেষ্টা করবেন।
২. প্রকল্পের লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্য হলো বিভিন্নমুখী জীবন দক্ষতা বিষয়ক সেশন এবং প্রশিক্ষণের মধ্য দিয়ে রোহিঙ্গা এবং স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাদের মধ্যে সচেতনতা ও সহনশীলতা গড়ে তোলা এবং স্থানীয়দেরকে অর্থনৈতিকভাবে স্বাবলম্বী করে তোলা। কেন হয়েছে বা হয়নি তার কারন খুঁজে বের করার চেষ্টা করবেন।
৩. সুপারিশমালা সংগ্রহণ (উপকারভোগী, স্টেকহোল্ডার ও কর্মী থেকে)।
৪. সাক্ষাতকার গ্রহণে যেন ন্যূনতম ০০ শতাংশ নারী, শিশু (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), প্রতিবন্ধী, সংখ্যালঘু, প্রান্তিক, তৃতীয় লিঙ্গ, ইত্যাদি থাকে তা অবশ্যই খেয়াল রাখবেন।
৫. প্রজেক্ট প্রোগ্রেস মনিটরিং ফরমেট ব্যবহার করবেন।
৬. লার্নিং সংগ্রহ করবেন।
৭. প্রকল্প ইউনিটের সাথে একিউট মিটিং করা।