

**“The bulletin on the activities of the “Improving Social Cohesion Project”. The project is being implemented by COAST Foundation 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”**

## **Session was held with different religious leaders on peaceful coexistence and human rights Everyone vowed to work together to maintain peace**

To build on factors that strengthen social cohesion in a migration context can contribute to peacebuilding and to work together to build bridges to peaceful coexistence with the Rohingya community sensitization session to the religious leaders was conducted at Rajapalong Union in Ukhiya Upazila on 19 October 2022. The participants were the religious leaders from Muslim, Hindu, Buddha community and civil society leaders from host community.

As an effective activity to reach maximum number of community people, the project conducted session with religious leaders on peacebuilding, brotherhood and social cohesion in the light of religion. Most influential 12 religious leaders participated in the session. After the session, religious leaders were committed that they would deliver



**Speaking regarding the social cohesion, Mawlana Jafor Alam (General Secretary, Imam Somity, Ukhiya). Photo: Sahazahan-FC**

their speech of social cohesion to the huge number of community people. In the meeting, participants discussed human rights, social cohesion and ways to improve them. They also point out the Rohingya issue in improving social peace and social security. During the session, religious leaders shared their role to improve social harmony through the lights of religion and to minimize the risks of conflict among both communities. They think such session should be increased and engage more people.

## **Advocacy meeting regarding social cohesion, peacebuilding and conflict resolution with Union Parishad Commitment to include local youths in various skill development trainings**

To encourage the commitment and strategy of concerned authorities to implement the recommendations through positive discussions and to present specific views and recommendations of the committee on overcoming obstacles and improving relationship an advocacy meeting was conducted on 24 October 2022 in with Rajapalong union parishad hall room. The participants were the Upazila Youth Development Officer, UP chairman, secretary, civile society, social cohesion committee members, entrepreneur, and village polices.



**“We all made the country independence together. We will all work together to maintain peace. The government will do the work according its law to repatriate the Rohingya, we will all be tolerant to maintain peace” said by Mr. Ronjit Barua, Lecturer, BMN Govt. Women College, Ukhiya.**

**Immediate results were that the participants were sensitized about human rights, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. There was good relation building up and mutual understanding among the invited leaders of different religions. Host community people sympathized with Rohingya people and they also felt ownership. They understood the realization that the Rohingyas are human and they have the rights to live with their human rights.**

Social cohesion promotion committee identified risks of conflict during camp visit and dialogue with



**Findings and recommendations were presented by the project cooperation. Photo: Bahadur-FC**

community members require coordination and advocacy across different sectors to find solutions.

During the meeting, the committee shared the recent status of relationship and the ways of improvement. At the meeting, expected proper plan of action was drafted regarding issues raised which will



**Umbrella and torch light distributed among the UP secretary and village polices by the ISC Project. Photo: Sahazahan-FC**

promote peaceful co-existence among the host community people and the Rohingya communities until repatriation. At the end of the meeting, umbrella and torch light was distributed among the UP secretary and 11 village polices.

**Consultation meeting with local journalists held at Ukhiya and Teknaf Press Clubs  
Everyone was invited to spread positive news**

On October 10 & 11, 2022, two separate meetings were held at Ukhiya and Teknaf Press Clubs organized by COAST, ISC Project in collaboration with UNHCR. A total of 28 local journalists were present in the meeting. Mr. Mujibul Islam, General Secretary of Cox's Bazar Press Club, was present as the chief organized on news production, obstacles in news production, transition and repatriation of displaced Rohingya citizens living in Ukhiya and Teknaf of Bangladesh.

Saeed Mohammad Anowar (President of Ukhiya Press Club) said, we must always consider the interests of the country first in making news on the Rohingya issue. We should also refrain from creating such



**Speaking regarding the conflict resolution of Rohingya issue by Javed Iqbal Chowdhury (Ex-President, PC, Teknaf). Photo: Ahammad-FC**

news, which tarnishes the image of the country. He commented that journalists are an important part of society and they have to work under many adversities.

**Mujibul Islam (President of Cox's Bazar Press Club) said that we constantly report on the Rohingya issue in one way or another, we have to take care that Myanmar and the international community do not take any wrong interpretation from our news. We know there are some bad people among the Rohingyas, but it is not good for Bangladesh to misrepresent the entire Rohingya population because of a few bad people. By doing this, the Myanmar government will also have an opportunity to present the Rohingya in a negative light, which will create an opportunity to delay the repatriation process.**



**To invite all journalists to publish positive news always said by Mr. Mujibul Islam (President, Press Club, Cox's Bazar). Photo: Julfikar Hossain-FC**

Sayed Hossain (President of Teknaf Press Club) said that due to delay in repatriation process, frustration is increasing among Rohingyas and locals. We cannot send the Rohingyas back to their home country, Myanmar. The Bangladesh government continuously try to send the Rohingyas back to their country in accordance with international law.

**Activity target and achievement, October'22**

Activity Name	Target	Achieved
Sensitization session with religious leaders	04	04
Consultation meeting with local Journalists	02	02
Peacebuilding meeting with host community people	02	02
Sensitization session at educational institutions	02	02

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