

YOUTH OF UKHIYA TOWARDS Headways (YOUTH)

Empowering Youth of the host communities of Ukhiya through life skills training and IGA involvement

1. Background

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).

2. Situation Analysis/Rationale

Improvement of the socio-economic situation of the host communities is the effective rationale of this project proposal. So far, 77% host communities of Ukhiya and Teknaf have been reported as hosting refugees.¹ Ukhiya–Teknaf is one of the most economically depressed regions of the country. This is not the first time the area has hosted refugees. In 1978 and 1991–92, it hosted 280,000 and 250,000 Rohingya respectively. Prior to the recent influx in post-August, it hosted around 300,000 of what the government preferred to term as “undocumented Myanmar nationals” (UMN).²

Ukhiya is a sub-district of Cox's Bazar district. Ukhiya sub-district is adjoined with the Myanmar border. About 655,000 Rohingya people from Myanmar have been forced into displacement from Myanmar and to take shelter in Ukhiya and Teknaf. Impact of the Rohingya influx in the host communities of Ukhiya and Teknaf has so far identified and recognized children, adolescents and women as very much vulnerable due to illiteracy, smuggling of arms and drugs, lack of awareness, lack of employment, mental and physical disabilities. COAST has conducted a research to identify the impact of Rohingya influx. It has 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 in 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.³

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

¹ ICSG (Nov, 2017) Shelter NFI joint need assessment – Host Community HH Survey

² ICSG (2017): Education & Child Protection in Emergencies Joint Rapid Needs Assessment

³ <http://coastbd.net/fdmn-impact-in-host-community/>

sanitation facility” indicator.⁴ 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, is it evident that Ukhiya is lagging behind in terms of total literacy and school attendance rates.⁵

Communities of Ukhiya and Teknaf are 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 concern that there are reduced job opportunities and the unskilled wage rate has decreased with additional labor available in the market. In general, 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.⁶

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, with BDT 80 being the lowest price of any vegetable, at least double the price in pre-August 25. Fares of all transportation, including rickshaws, registered an increase by 100 to 200 percent.⁷ The arrival of consultants, aid workers, and 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.⁸

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.⁹

As mentioned earlier, 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 clear perception 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).¹⁰

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.¹¹

Considering the above-mentioned situation, to ensure an effective and much needed harmony among the Rohingya and host communities, the CSOs and NGOs of Cox's Bazar has been demanding allocation also for

⁴ UNICEF (2010): *A Case for Geographic Targeting of Basic Social Services to Accelerate Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh*

⁵ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2012): *Bangladesh Population and Housing Census, Community Report*.

⁶ ICSG (Nov, 2017) *Shelter NFI joint need assessment – Host Community HH Survey*

⁷ C R Abrar, *Voice of the host community, The Daily Star, 13 October 2017*

⁸ C R Abrar, *Voice of the host community, The Daily Star, 13 October 2017*

⁹ *The Independent, 21 January 2018*.

¹⁰ ICSG (2017): *Education & Child Protection in Emergencies Joint Rapid Needs Assessment*

¹¹ UNICEF (2018) *Bangladesh: Humanitarian Situation Report No.17 (Rohingya influx) 7 January 2018*

the host communities. They are advocating for allocation 25% of the total allocation of funding for the Rohingya crisis¹². Promoting youth empowerment can be one iconic effort to encourage peaceful coexistence between these two communities. In one hand, it will ensure youth empowerment and as well as it will help in establishing the interaction between these two communities. To ensure the interaction, linkage meetings, sport and cultural events with participation with local youth and Rohingya youths will be organized.

3. COAST Experiences on Adolescents and Youth Empowerment

COAST has formally started youth empowerment efforts in Cox's Bazar since 2004. From 2004 to 2013, a total of 273 centers (named Shonglap centers) with 6,918 adolescent girls completed one-year course and all of them are graduated. The last cohort of adolescent girls completed the course in March 2013 (total 1375 girls in 55 centers). It is to be noted that, the data was collected with an M&E system that was established from series of meetings, workshops and training organized for COAST staff by the donor organization. From these workshops and meetings, specific data collection methodologies against all the set indicators were finalized. COAST staff collected data using specific survey format/questionnaire. They also organized Focused Group Discussion (FGD) and interviews. After collection of the data, both internal and external (donor) M&E personnel and project management personnel verified the data. The key results were as follows:

- Level of knowledge and experience on life skills of adolescent girls have been enhanced remarkably.
- They can take part in decision-making process at their family level; they have gained knowledge in facilitating social issues; well aware on human rights etc.
- Graduated adolescents acquired technical knowledge on running IGAs on their own. Above 60% are now engaged in IGAs.
- From our M&E data collection, we have found that, 75% of the girls graduated from Shonglap were participating in decision-making process at their family level. At the baseline level we had found that, only 17% of girls enrolled in Shonglap were participating in decision making process. Baseline was conducted by collecting data against specific questionnaire from all the enrolled girls. The baseline were conducted form an external experts. It is to be noted that, participating in decision making process means, they take their own decisions on 10 specific areas such as- they can run and manage their own Income Generating Activities (where applicable), taking decision about their marriage, decision about going to school and college, purchasing their cloths in their own will, participating in social and cultural programs in society can move according to their will and choice etc.
- From our collected data, it was found that almost 80% of the Shonglap graduated adolescent girls have knowledge on human rights /child rights. They now well informed about the national and international human rights and they are even organizing campaign- awareness program for their fellow community members.
- On average, 75% Shonglap adolescent girls are aware on learning issues and life skills, e.g. decision making, critical analysis, effective communication, how to say no, stress management, protection from child marriage, awareness against human trafficking etc.
- Almost 75% of the girls who are aware, they practice learning issues in their daily and social life.

¹² <http://www.cxb-cso-ngo.org/2018/01/31/25-percent-of-total-allocated-fund-rohingya-relief-works-should-be-used-for-the-host-communities-demand-from-coxs-bazar-csos-and-ngos-forum/>

From 2014 to 2018 another 58 Shonglap centers (adolescent empowerment centers) were established, from where 419 adolescent girls have so far returned to mainstream school, 763 adolescent girls are engaged in IGA. This is one of the COAST flagship initiatives towards youth empowerment.

COAST also works with youth in the In Bhola District in Southern Bangladesh. COAST is working with 24,000 adolescents (12,000 boys and 12,000 girls) who were enrolled in the 800 adolescent clubs. This is an ongoing project, sponsored by UNICEF, running from 28 September 2017- 27 September 2018. For inclusion of vulnerable groups of adolescents in adolescents clubs, COAST field workforces further explored Children with Disabilities (CWDs), out of schoolchildren, child laborer, and girl child of distressed families. However, they were less known and marginalized in the community. Each adolescent club ensured inclusion of CWDs and out of schoolchildren, that was approximately 50% of total adolescents during this reporting period. From various awareness, orientation, skill development programs adolescents came to know about the negative impacts of child marriage, they learnt about necessity of education and they learnt about some basic health care issues. These learnings helped them to protect them from child marriage and to act as change agent. With the support of this project so far 165 child marriage initiatives have been protected (Bhola sadar – 47, Lalmohon – 51 & Charfassion - 67). With the support of the project, some Ward Committees and adolescents clubs have been established. These committees and clubs have strong communication with local elected bodies, educational institutions and local administration. When news of any child marriage initiatives come, immediately these committees or club members rush to the family. First of all, they try to convince the family. If failed, they take the matter to the local elected body or administration. With this support, they have been successful in protecting the previously mentioned numbers of child marriage.

4. The Project

A. Goal of the Project

The COAST Trust will establish youth centers and provide skills and life skills training to make youth in refugee-hosting communities more self-reliant and financially empowered. The centers will provide life skills and awareness on the following issues:

- Human trafficking
- Sexual harassment
- Child abuse
- Child Marriage
- Eve teasing
- Drugs

Along with this awareness training COAST will also arrange Income Generating Activities (IGA) like agriculture basic training, livestock basic training and sewing machine training. Coast will also arrange linkage meetings with the local FDMN community as part of their local awareness. Activities such as sport and cultural events with participation with local youth and Rohingya youths will be organized.

B. Outcome

By end of project, 180 (90%) of adolescent/youth ages 15-24 will have passed the course and received a certificate for completing their skills and life skills training course (GL-EB811/Yb)

C. Expected Output/Results

- 10 Centre Support Committee (CSM) are functioning (GL-E143/Y).
- 200 youth learners finished training on farm and off-farm trades (GL-E151/Y)
- 50 girls/women and 50 boys/men received financial support (GL-E901/Y)

D. Target & Location: The project will target 200 youth and adolescents (100 boys/men, 100 girls/women ages 15-24) in Ukhiya Sub-District, Cox's Bazar. We have selected the Ukhiya, since this is the most

affected area due to the FDMN influx. Group will be selected according to some specific criteria like age 15-24, school dropouts, from the poor families, from landless families etc. Adolescents from poor families will get priorities. We will identify poor families using Progress out of Poverty Indicators (PPI). We will develop questionnaire to select the families using that PPI. We will also conduct Adolescent Vulnerabilities Assessment, which will help us to target most vulnerable adolescents.

As the age group is finalized, to select the participants will arrange a baseline survey. COAST will focus on where the number of such adolescents are available and with consultation with the local communities the selections will be finalized.

- E. Basic Concept:** The proposed project titled **Youth of Ukhiya towards Headways (YOUTH)** will ensure headways or progress among the youth of the refugee-hosting communities of Ukhiya through enhanced life skills and IGA involvement.

The proposed project will target youth and adolescents from the host community and support them with non-formal education, and vocational training, under the livelihoods umbrella. The project will be a skills training program for both men and women, with an opportunity to learn a new skill and start a business based on market needs. Specific activities will include the following:

- Establishing 10 centers for 200 adolescent/youth, where they will get life skills and vocational training on IGA.
- Four months skills training program, skills will include different life skills like child rights, gender, personal health, reproductive health, child marriage, eve teasing/harassment, stress, dowry, neglect and exploitation, trafficking, drug addiction and abuse, HIV and AIDS. COAST will arrange training for the center facilitators.
- Market Survey to study the desired trade of youth and adolescents and the saturation of the market in Ukhiya due to newly arrived refugees. The market survey should build on those already conducted by partners as well as include feedback from youth and adolescent focus groups.
- Three months technical training and start-up financial support on IGA like Agriculture basic training, livestock basic training and sewing machine training.

- F. The Youth Center:** One of the key strategies of the project will be establishing functioning Youth Centers. The project will establish 10 centers, to each of which 20 youth will be attached. Youth will come to these centers for two hours of formal sessions daily, five days in a week. Time of the sessions will be decided with the consultation of the youth, parents, and stakeholders.

One Center Facilitator (CF) will be recruited for each of the centers. S/he will be trained on conducting life skill sessions. They will conduct regular sessions and coordinate all the center-based activities. A Detailed ToR will be prepared for center operation.

The CF will arrange community meeting to start the centers at the community. CF will select the specific center place and the youth with the consultation of the parents and local communities.

Before starting the formal sessions, the CF will prepare a baseline of the youth on life skills. This baseline will help to identify the project progress.

The project will provide logistics for the running of the centers and it will be managed by a Local Center Support Committee (CSC). The seven members CSC will include parents, the CF,

representative(s) from the local government, community leaders and one adolescent. The CSC will organize regular monthly meeting.

The center will provide four months' session in life skills. During this time, one assessment or study will be conducted. Based on the study special training on IGA trade will be organized. The project will hire resource person. If needed the project will meet the cost of the training if is taken from outside. Another two months there will be general technical/vocational training.

After the final training, based on the assessment youths will be provided 7500 Taka to start the IGA. This will be a grant. This amount will not be paid in advance. Graduated participants will submit their business plan, when the business plan is approved, they will submit their materials requirement. They will buy the approved materials and project will reimburse.

COAST has its policies on protecting child rights, protecting from sexual harassments. It has also policies on Complaint Response Mechanism including Whistle Blowing Policies. COAST has also policies on right to information. All staff including Centre Facilitators will be oriented on these policies during their foundation training. Key features of these policies will be available in centers so that adolescents will also be able to know and they can use these policies if needed. It will ensure code of conduct for all and it will ensure their security and rights.

G. The Logical Framework of the Project is as follows:

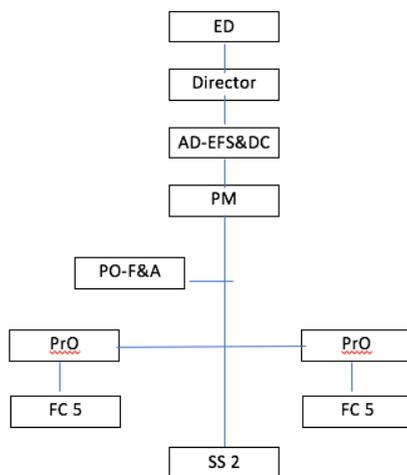
Outcome 1: By end of project, 180 adolescent/youth (90%) will have passed the course and received a certificate for completing their skills and life skills training course (GL-EB811/Yb)			
Output	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
1.1 Centre Support Committee (CSM) are functioning (GL-E143/Y)	# of center support committees established Target: 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting register and minutes Monitoring reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption: Major disasters will not hamper the programme Risk: Hostile local government administration/authority and community
1.2 Youth learners finished training on farm and off-farm trades (GL-E151/Y)	# of youth learners completing program Target: 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification of secondary data Cases of marriage without dowry Follow up report Participants profile Data base Centre registers and records Interview of participants, family /community Case study/own story Training report Monitoring report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk: Non-friendly market environment Risk: Lack of gender sensitiveness among the family members
1.3 Youth and adolescents received financial support (GL-E901/Y)	# of youth receiving start-up grant Target: 100 (50 male, 50 female)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption: access to funds

H. Program Implementation Unit (PIU)

COAST central office will be responsible for the overall quality management of the project. COAST will involve one Focal Person for the project at its central office. S/He will be responsible mainly to ensure coordination between COAST Trust and NRC Office. COAST central finance and internal audit team will be involved to ensure accuracy and transparency in financial management of the project.

At the field level a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established by COAST Trust. The PIU will include one Program Manager, One Accounts and Administrative Officer, Two Program Organizers and two support staff. Besides this team, the project will hire one Center Facilitator for each youth center.

The organogram of the project management:



(Note: ED: Executive Director, AD-EFS&DC: Assistant Director- Education Food security & Development Communication; PM: Program Manager, PO: Program Officer, F&A: Finance and Administration, PrO: Program Organizer; CF: Center Facilitator, SS: Support Staff)

The role of PM will be overall management and supervision of the project, while the two Program Organizers will provide technical and other support to the CF and they will ensure the quality of the youth centers.

I. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning

COAST will introduce an internal monitoring mechanism for the project. The project will use some tools on internal management and planning. The main objectives of those tools are:

- To ensure quality
- To ensure regular communication with the field activities
- To maintain the regular flow of information

To fulfill those objectives, we can use different monitoring tools. We also have management and planning tools. These tools are as follows:

Program Staff Level Monitoring Tools	Internal Monitoring Tools	Output/ Performance
	Daily Activities Report	We can be sure about Staffs movement and field visits
	Daily center visit report	Visit ensured
	Weekly Activities Report	We get the weekly idea on staff movement and activities and we can formulate plan and strategies.
	Monthly center Program Report	We get the overall data on center and can assess quality and progress.
	Quarterly program Report	We get the quarterly quantities and qualitative information
	Posters on lesson	We can be sure about the quality of the lesson

Facilitator Level Monitoring Tools	Code used for lesson discussion	We can be sure about the lesson already delivered.
	Action Plan	We can be sure the learners level practices of the lesson
	Home Visit Register	We can be sure the learners level practices of the lesson
	Attendance Sheet	We can monitor the attendance of the learners.
	Home Visit Report	Attendance condition improved, community participation improved.
	CSC Meeting Minutes	We can be sure about the regular CSC meeting and the community involvement.

Management & Planning Tools	Output/ Performance
Fortnightly Staff Meeting	We analyze, assess our current progress, activities revise our strategies and plan and make plan for the future.
Monthly and weekly Plan of all staff	We make daily and monthly plan to make the program successful
Bi monthly Program Review	After each two month, the program progress will be reviewed based on the agreed logframe of the project.
Internal Mid Term Review after six months	After six month of the project, there will be an external review or evaluation of the project. Learning of the review will be used to revamp the project activities.

(Note: for the all meeting staff will get actual travel cost, food and accommodation if needed. Coast will be calculated according COAST policy. COAST principal office staff will visit the project office and the project site to ensure monitoring and transparency of projects activities and project expenses. Budget of the project will allocate travel cost for this purpose too.)

5. Budget of the Project

Annex One

6. Work Plan

MONTH	Hire Staff and Set up of Office	Centre Establishment and Market Survey	Enrollment	Life Skill Sessions	IGA Training	Periodic M&E
May	x	x	x	X		
June				X		X
July				X		
August				X		X
September				X	X	
October					X	X
November					X	
December					X	X

7. Sustainability Plan

- A. Policy sustainability:** Intensive dialogue and information sharing with Government, civil society and local government organizations should maximize the chances of longer-term acceptance and sustainability of the project outcome. COAST will organize local and national level advocacy on the youth empowerment in the host communities.
- B. Integration:** COAST has been implementing different programs in Cox's Bazar and in same thematic areas. Efforts will be made to merge activities with other programs. Internalization of the key messages and practices of this project among the targeted people is the key tools of sustainability of the project. COAST will effectively emphasize on the quality of effective communication. A demand driven approach can play a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of the project.
- c. Local Resources:** The Project Implementation Unit will focus on enriching the relationship among the targeted stakeholders during the project period. At the latter part of the project, a five-year action plan will be prepared by COAST and it will identify the local resources to implement the actions.
- D. Follow up:** COAST has offices in the project area; it will help us in ensuring follow up regularly after completion of the project to keep successful continuation of the project results and other activities. The project will form a forum with the participation of all the graduated adolescents. This center will work as a production and marketing place for the adolescents. Project will try to establish two leaders in each of the centres. These leaders will work as change agents and they will act as bridging tools for COAST and the graduated adolescents. COAST support the forum and these graduated leaders by involving them in various development activities. COAST will established linkages among the adolescents and the Government Youth Development Department for vocational training and other supports. COAST will also ensure that they are linked with local government institutions. They will be brought under COAST entrepreneurship development programs. They will be also brought under the Micro Finance program of COAST, from where they will provide technical and financial support. Thus they will be under COAST umbrella, which will help COAST to monitor them.
- E. Exit Plan:** COAST will prepare a detailed exit plan for the project. A draft plan can like this:

Intervention	Strategy	Exit Process
Empowering Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve with follow up program • Back to school • Sharing the plan with Forum, CSC • Linkage with other govt./non-govt service provider institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation analysis • Situation Sharing • Orientation to youth and CSC • Linkage with local administration and local government • Exit sharing workshop at community level, local administration level including best practice sharing • Responsibilities Handover to the forum