

29th (July) Edition, Date 29/ 07/ 2020, COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme for Host community and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar district, Ukhia Relief Operation Centre, Ukhia, Cox's Bazar

COAST Trust is implementing "COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme for Rohingya refugees and host community in Cox's Bazar district "from 13, May 2020 to 12, November 2020". Adolescents and their families access to child protection and GBV services in COVID19 response through psychosocial support & case management services. Also children, their parents, and community members will be benefited from COVID-19 awareness, referral services, and community engagement initiatives.

Rohingya adolescent Ahsana returned to her family at last



In the presence of Mr. Ahsan Habib, Assistant CiC of Camp-8E, the COAST Trust staffs are handing over Ahsana to her family. Photo: Sabu Alam, PSS Worker

Rohingya adolescent Ahsana (16) returned to her family after five months under the endeavor and care of COAST Trust and Camp in Charge (CiC) of Camp-8E. It is learned that on February 5, 2020, a Rohingya youth named Nur Muhammad lured her with a commitment of marriage and took her to Camp-6. From then, her parents started to search for their daughter. Eventually, they found her at Kutupalong registered Camp-1. On February 10, 2020, the CiC of the camp rescued her and handed over to the non-governmental development agency UNHCR and TAI (Technical Assistance Inc.) to keep the girl safe. From there the girl was taken to a safe home of TAI in Cox's Bazar. The girl remained there till July 21, 2020, and received medical services. Meanwhile, her family was trying hard to get her back. The protection focal of Camp-8E and the site management of DRC asked COAST Trust to look into the matter as a referral case. Initiatives were then taken to bring the girl back to her parents under the case management service by contacting all concerned persons. Finally, through various processes, the Coast Trust handed over Ahsan to her parents in the presence of CiC, protection focal, block majhi, and site management on July 23, 2020. She is now physically and mentally hale and her family is very pleased to have her back.

Case Management Services has provided necessary materials to 91 adolescents

91 adolescents from seven camps under the COAST Trust child protection project have received various necessary materials through its case management service. Among them 49 are girls and 42 are boys. The only cases that can be often seen are- unaccompanied children, child-headed family, child marriage, disabled adolescents, and child labor. Neces-



The disabled child Jubayer is very happy to get a table for studying. Photo - Razia, Social Worker

sary items supplied based on the demand of the cases include umbrellas, powdered milk packets, charge lights, cloths, triple, mats, bedsheets, reading tables, chairs, soap, and masks. They are very happy to get the materials. A teenager Ramida (14) said that the materials provided by the COAST Trust would be very useful in the event of the corona pandemic. Especially, the umbrella will be useful to collect water from the tube-well and go to the health center during the rainy season. Moreover, if I drink powder milk regularly, my health will be better. "I will have the advantage to study now and I won't have to worry about the bamboo floor," said physically challenged Jubayer who got a table and chair to read."

Psycho-Social Support (PSS) services are being provided regularly to alleviate the fears and frustrations of adolescents

COAST Trust, with the support of UNICEF, is providing awareness about psychosocial support services and COVID-19 among the locals of three unions of Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilas and the Rohingya refugees of seven camps under COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response project. Human life does not depend solely on food. Mental stability as well as other environmental conditions also depend on. Otherwise, someone may risk his or her own life as



The PSS worker is trying to give pleasure to an adolescent through the storytelling. Photo: Shimul, PSS worker

well as the lives of others. The current corona pandemic is causing stress and panic in the minds of adolescents, which in turn causing frustration in their daily lives. In this case, providing psychosocial services is very important. So far, 1264 adolescents have been brought under psychosocial service out of which 665 are girls and 599 are boys. The staff went to the homes of the adolescents to identify the problems in terms of loneliness, frustration, conflict, and fear, and to alleviate this, they carried out various activities including drawing, stories, songs, and games with them. Such activities are helping to improve the mental state of adolescents.

A group 25 adolescents is willingly working for Child Protection

An adolescent group is working at Ukhia Camp to raise awareness on Child Protection by their self-motivation. It started with only five members and now the number of members has increased to twenty-five. Their awareness activities are increasing gradually with the assistance of COAST Trust staff. In the awareness campaign, they are discussing child marriage, child labor, child abuse, harmful effects of drugs, disaster preparedness, gender-based violence, and the coronavirus among the adolescents, Majhi, and Imams at different blocks. This campaign is using different methods like a home visit, placard display, tea cycle discussion. In the meantime, they have been able to stop child marriage



An adolescent group is trying to raise public awareness through placards. Photo: Irfan Ullah

and a few teenagers from smoking cigarettes. Besides, they have voluntarily repaired the house rooftop of a disabled adolescent named Nur Hayat. Mujib, an active adolescent member of the group, said, "As human beings in society we have certain duties that we have learned from COAST Trust's life skills sessions. Therefore, we want to help people by doing good deeds.

Imams' Awareness Campaign on Child Protection

Aiming to create a safe social environment for children, a mosque-based Imam Campaign is running. To implement this program, 50 Imams have been selected. They discuss various issues of child protection for the people present in the mosque during the Friday sermon. Imam Mohamad Idris of Camp-11 said,



Imam is giving a sermon on various issues COVID-19 and child protection. Photo: Saiful, Community Mobilizer

"Last July, we discussed the role of parents in preventing the spread of the coronavirus and reducing the risk of disasters." Moreover, the responsibilities and duties of community leaders in combating child trafficking and violence have been highlighted. Regarding the Imam Campaign, the Head Majhi of Camps 11 and 12 said, "The Rohingya people give more importance to the Imam's advice. Therefore, it is expected that this campaign will also aware of the parents.

The 53 volunteers of the camp have been trained in monsoon disaster preparedness

One of the ways to increase the skills and knowledge is through continuous training. Under the COVID-19 preparedness and response programme, a total of 74 volunteers have been recruited who are assisting in the implementation of the project at the field level, especially in the camps. Various rules and restrictions have been imposed on public movement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially at the camp level. So the project thinks that these volunteers will play a special role in speeding up the work. For this, three types of volunteers have been recruited, such as community volunteers, case volunteers, community outreach volunteers. To increase their



A disabled person is being helped to repair his house rooftop as part of monsoon disaster preparedness. Photo: Alam

knowledge and ideas about disaster risk reduction, a training entitled "Monsoon Preparation Training" was organized from July 22 to July 23, 2020. A total of 54 volunteers participated there out

of which 28 were boys and 25 were girls. Through this training, they have learned about various disasters and disaster-related diseases during the monsoon. Moreover, they understand how to prepare and respond to such disasters. The participants have also learned how to take measures to overcome disasters by encouraging the people of society in times of crisis. Rafiq, a volunteer who participated in the training, said, "From the training, I learned about floods, landslides, and cyclones. Now I am aware of the disaster risk and, therefore, I want to protect the people of my society from this risk."

Home-based COVID-19 awareness for the adolescents

By the end of the project, we will disseminate awareness among a total of 1,160 adolescents through home-based awareness activities. To implement these activities, 34 community outreach workers and 18 LSB facilitators have been recruited and 29 volunteers have been recruited to



An adolescent is practicing handwashing at the house. Photo: Lutfur

assist them. Awareness is the most appropriate way to build resistance against COVID-19. Most of the adolescents do not know what to do in this situation and what rules to follow for safety. Our staff and volunteers are trying

to raise awareness among adolescents and their families by the door to door visits. At the same time, they are spreading various awareness information such as frequent handwashing with soap, wearing a mask when going out of the house, maintaining social distance, disinfecting daily

necessities, avoiding crowds, following sneezing etiquette, etc. So far this month, the message has reached 4,105 adolescents, including 1,855 boys and 2,250 girls.

Social Hub provides opportunities for adolescents to practice knowledge and develop free-thinking

Child protection activities have been introduced among the local community through social hubs. A total of 3 social hubs have been established in Jaliapalang and Ratnapalang Unions of Ukhia and Teknaf Sadar Union. Under this social hub, 30 social change agents will discuss various issues and find a way to solve them. In particular, it will work on issues like child abuse, child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, child rights, etc. The social hub will have issue-based session facilities, library corner, computer and internet facilities, etc. to train adolescents efficiently. Also, there is a tab for every social change agent to



Adolescents are busy in using computers and reading books at a social hub. Photo: Saiful, MPC Supervisor

'raise the voice' in reducing child safety risks through the 'U Report'. A WhatsApp group has also been set up to exchange information and take quick action on any risk. In this regard, a CBCPC member of Ratnapalang Multipurpose Center Mr. Shawkat Hassan said, it is a commendable and effective initiative and such initiatives will ensure child protection.

Naima Sharifa: A successful peer leader

When the helplessness is destiny, strong morale is a source of hope. Which is proved by Naima Sharifa, 17 years old girl, who lives with her maternal grandparents in Camp 14. She lost her parents at a young age but she has made herself advanced by participating in COAST Trust's life skills, technical training, and awareness programs. After a difficult time in life, she is now a role model for her

same-aged peers. In addition to protecting herself from child marriage, she has stopped 4 child marriages along with other teenagers. Playing an effective role in child protection by increasing sincerity with peers. Under her leadership, other peer leaders have also faced interactive visits to UNICEF. Her vegetable cultivation is contributing to maintaining the ecological balance of nature as well as meeting the food demand of her family. She is taking part in the campaign of COVID-19 and is making the peers aware of it. At the same time, peers and their parents are



Naima and her two peers are planting trees in the yard. Photo: Aleya Akhter

being alerted to disaster preparedness by her effort. She thinks that seeing her work like this, other teenagers will be encouraged and will come forward for awareness work.

Project activities at a glance (May – July 2020):

Serial	Name of activities	Achievements
1	Case management service	175 people
2	Psychosocial support	1464 people
3	Awareness based home session	4725 people
4	Awareness session for parent	4311 people
5	Awareness session for CBCPC member	554 people
6	Imam campaign	50 people
7	Participation of peer leader in awareness session	365 people
8	Volunteer recruitment	71 people
9	Training for volunteer	53 people
10	Establishment of Social Hub	3

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