



DRAFT; REVIEW OF SOCIAL COHESION AMONG ROHINGYAS AND HOST COMMUNITY

Improving Social Cohesion Among Rohingyas and Host Community Project



DECEMBER 20, 2020

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1. Background of the project

The Rohingya influx impacted massively on the host communities of Cox's Bazar District. With a population of 2.3 Million, it is one of Bangladesh's poorest, most vulnerable, and yet most neglected districts, with 33% of the population living below poverty (as opposed to 18% national average) and 17% below the extreme poverty line (12% national average) (as per World Bank report, 2016). As the first responder, the host community welcomed the Rohingya and supported them with humanitarian feelings. Gradually the humanitarian sense winding up due to visible negative impact on their livelihood. Especially employment and livelihood are the most affected area due to the Rohingya influx in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

During the implementation period in the last year, responders said that if the affected people specially youths are not addressed properly, there is a risk for them to engage in different illegal means; drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other crimes and tends to clash with Rohingyas. On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the usual living of host and refugee communities as the containment measures and movement restrictions have impacted the ability to govern their lives. The density of the population in the camps also hindered the ability of refugees to take the necessary preventive measures to limit infections. The host community faces similar difficulties, and the containment measures had an adverse economic impact on both host and refugee communities. In the meantime, social distance also increased between the communities. They have less scope to interact and to participate in the meeting, session, training etc.

The issue of Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar has risen frustration because they would like to ensure their civil rights in Myanmar before starting the repatriation. So, for both the Host Community and Rohingya Community tension and anger lifting. As a result, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence issues must be continued. Peaceful coexistence is a complex issue that is blended not only within the nearest local host community but also with the broader consensus of the district and country sentiment. UNHCR and other UN agencies are supporting the solidarity approach which needs broader (district and national level) dissemination.

1.1. *Specific Problems:*

- The Host community people living close to the camps or inside the camp area are at great risk to get involved in the conflict with the Rohingya community.
- The unexpected and unwanted incident that happened inside the camps between Rohingyas increases tension in the Host community.
- The Host Community people are in tension and especially the risk of the youth engaging different illegal means; drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other crimes and tends to clash with Rohingya people.
- Financial, social and cultural hindrances occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic that divided both the communities and increased social distance.
- The Rohingya people are also frustrated with their repatriation arrangement and obtaining refugee rights.
- Continuous negative narratives about the Rohingya community.
- Lacking Interactive positive engagement among host and Rohingya community.

1.2. *Objective:*

Foster social cohesion involving both the host and the Rohingya community and promote Human Rights through advocacy and campaigns.

1.3. *Intended Impact:*

With the implementation of the project activities to achieve the goal to foster social cohesion and improve peaceful coexistence among Rohingya and the host community, the project will have a massive impact on the communities. The intended impacts are;

- Event-based (World UDHR day, interactive session, dialogues between both the communities, etc.) knowledge sharing may create space for linkage among host and Rohingya community.
- The risk of the youths engaging in different illegal means; drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other crimes and tends to clash with Rohingya people will be reduced through developing their skills by various training and workshop and engaging them with different social awareness activities.
- Sensitize 25,000 individuals from refugees and host communities on social cohesion. Through sensitization of refugees and host community people by different awareness sessions; sensitization of Bazar management committee, interactive session on human rights and human dignity, awareness through radio programs, sensitization sessions with religious leaders and community women, a positive mentality will be created among the host community people that will foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence during the interaction among both the community.
- Through dialogues between both communities, joint project implementation, joint sports and social activities and day observation will accelerate the interaction between both the communities.

2. Purpose and Methodology of the Review

2.1 *Purpose of the Review:*

The purpose of the review is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the social cohesion among Rohingyas and the host community with two major perspectives:

- (i) The degree to which the project goals and objectives were achieved;
- (ii) How relevant the project activities were to the existing needs of the society.

2.2 *The methodologies of the Review:*

The methodology used to develop this review report is as follows:

2.2.1 Desk Review of Relevant Documentation:

A desk review was conducted of project documents including relevant project documents, outputs, narrative implementation reports, project planning documents and audit reports. For a better understanding of the project activities and reports, an open discussion was held with the project focal person and project representatives.

2.2.2 Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

The consultant conducted 7 FGDs with 35 members of different groups of beneficiaries and stakeholders to figure out their involvement with the project, achievement and benefits of social cohesion plan, interactive sessions, awareness sessions and conflict resolution projects etc.

2.2.3 Key informant interview (KII):

To assess the immediate result of the project, Key informant interviews were held with numerous direct and indirect stakeholders, donor representatives, project team and project beneficiaries in the

period of December 07, 2020 to December 12, 2020. These interviews aimed to analyze the success or otherwise of the project in terms of reaching the objectives outlined in the project document.

Interviews were conducted with:

- Improving Social Cohesion Project Team
- Donor Representatives
- Upazila level local government representatives
- Union level local government representatives
- Civil Society Organizations
- Youths from local clubs

2.2.4 Observation and Conversation:

During the field visit, FGD and KII and interaction with direct beneficiaries and stakeholders, the consultant carefully observed and took objective notes of what he saw and felt about participants' outlook and thinking of social cohesion.

3. Description of the activities

In 2020, the project has implemented targeting its objective and planned activities. Through the implementation of the activities, an environment of social cohesion is created among both the communities as they had facilitated an opportunity of sharing their problems and challenges of peaceful coexistence.

3.1. Detail Activities:

- 1. Refresher training/orientation of social cohesion promotion committee at host community:** In the selected four unions, the existing social cohesion promotion committee of 5 members will be extended to 9 members comprising of UP members, Female and Male representatives and representatives of the host community. One orientation will be organized for these committees on their roles and responsibilities and the expected outcome of their activities. To accelerate the effect of their activities and to create plans for improving social cohesion, there will be quarterly meetings too.
- 2. Formation of Social Cohesion Promotion Group at camps:** In selected 8 camps, 8 Social Cohesion Promotion Groups will be formed through an assessment with the engagement of existing interlocutors inside the refugee camps such as; community leaders, imam, youths, women groups etc. Orientations will be organized on their roles and responsibilities and the expected outcome of their activities. To improve social cohesion, they will participate in different development activities in camps.
- 3. Dialogue between Social Cohesion Promotion Committee of host and Rohingya communities:** To develop a good relationship and reduce conflict between both the communities, the two communities will meet and discuss peacebuilding issues. During the meeting, they will share the recent status of the relationship and improvement. At the meeting, they will develop a plan to engage both communities in a common platform or group and design some community-based projects which will promote peaceful co-existence between host and refugee communities. There will be 8 dialogues in the selected 8 camps.
- 4. The result, challenge and learning sharing feedback meeting with UP and Civil Society:** To present a picture of Rohingya camp, with the participation of social cohesion promotion committee of the host community, 2 meetings with the participation of Union Parishad bodies

and civil society of Ukhiya and Teknaf will be arranged with around 20 participants in each meeting. At the meeting, feedback of the camp visit will be presented and participants will place their valuable recommendations to make the activities more effective.

5. **Project sharing meeting:** At Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilla, two project sharing meetings will be organized. Project staff, Upazilla Parishad representatives, representatives from Government departments, UN agencies, Journalists, NGOs, INGOs, and will participate in the project sharing meeting. Project Goals, Objectives, activities, modalities and needful supports from other stakeholders will be presented in the meeting.
6. **National Day observation in education institutes:** To enrich the extracurricular ability of students and create a joyful environment in educational institutes **Children's Day** will be observed. Sports and cultural programs will be organized to encourage students for greater achievement. Among selected 25 educational institutes, Children's Day will be observed and the message of human rights, protection and safety of children and peaceful coexistence will be delivered.
7. **Strengthening Parents' Teacher Association (PTA):** Among the educational institutes, a Parents' Teacher Association (PTA) meeting will be organized. Besides discussion on parents' responsibility as a guardian of the student, opportunities due to the Rohingya influx will be presented as well as they will be sensitized on Human Rights, Refugee Rights, and peaceful coexistence. As they are most affected so they will be encouraged to overcome the crisis through the combined approach.
8. **Career development orientation:** Most of the graduate students of Cox's Bazar are not skilled enough to secure desired jobs. To enhance their skills in job seeking and employment, 6 sessions on career development along with practical knowledge including application writing and how to prepare for job interview etc. will be arranged among students of 3 colleges of Cox's Bazar district. About 20 students who have completed their graduation or post-graduation will participate in the orientation. The number of sessions can be increased or decreased on a need basis. It will create a positive influence on youths.
9. **Conduct interactive sessions with developed IEC materials on Human Rights, Refugee rights and sense of humanity:** With developed booklets on human rights and refugee rights, interactive sessions will be conducted in educational institutes, camps, and host community. Last year, only 150 students participated in these sessions from each educational institute. So, there will be more 75 classroom sessions in 25 educational institutions on Human Rights and Refugee Rights and peaceful coexistence/ social cohesion where 3750 students will participate (3 in each of 25 educational institutions in 4 unions). Interactive sessions also will be conducted with all 4 Local Government bodies, Unions and Upazila government service providers and the community people. In each of the Rohingya camps through using pictorial/ visual aid total of 3 orientation sessions will be organized (1 with Mazhis, 1 with Imams and one in courtyard meeting in a mixed group at each of the 8 camps).
10. **Debate competition at educational institutes:** To increase and enrich leadership quality, knowledge, analysis skill, the vocal skill of students, 10 debate completions will be arranged on crisis vs opportunity due to Rohingya influx. The topic can be changed if required. Everybody only knows the crisis due to the Rohingya influx but through the completions, the audience will know about the created opportunity. The activities of NGOs will be visible by the speech of participates.
11. **Observation of different days in the host and Rohingya community;**
 - **Human Rights Day 10th December** Human Rights Day will be observed at educational institutes, Upazila and district level engaging school and college students, local elected

representatives, government officers, and other key stakeholders. At the school level, there will be an essay competition in each school. Champions of the school level will compete in Upazila level competition and be awarded.

- 12. Meeting with local journalists on the importance of social cohesion and the role of journalists to promote social cohesion:** To encourage journalists on producing positive news and to disseminate the message of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, two meetings will be arranged separately in Ukhiya and Teknaf. They will discuss the ways; how they can contribute to maintaining social harmony. Project activities will be presented before them. They will be informed and influenced to publish reports on the project activities. In each of the meetings, there will be 15 participants. COVID-19 preventive measures will be followed during the meeting.
- 13. Journalist's visit to NGO activities in the host community:** 15 journalists from Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf will visit the activities of UNHCR's and their partner NGOs at the host community. UNHCR representatives will participate and will present a short description of each of the activities. After the visit, it is expected that journalists will publish reports in the local and national newspapers to visible the contribution of NGOs. With the exposure of NGO activities, a positive narrative will be created among local people.
- 14. Refreshers Training and detailed plan of operation workshop:** It will be a 2 days indoor event for all project staff. PIU team and UNHCR will facilitate the event. After the event, a detailed plan of operation will be produced. The activities for Partnership Agreement between COAST and UNHCR will be the base of the workshop and training. Program staff and volunteers will also orient on UNHCR zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and CHS on quality and accountability, MEAL system, etc.
- 15. Project impact analysis:** To assess the relevance of the project activities, to make necessary and immediate modifications to ensure the achievement of these objectives within the lifetime of the project a 'Mid-term Project Impact Analysis' is needed. There will be a project impact analysis for taking stock of initial lessons from experience, so that management can take immediately to (a) address particular issues or problems in the design, implementation, and management, and (b) reinforce initiatives that demonstrate the potential for success. The evaluation will be conducted by an external expert on refugee and migration etc.
- 16. Meeting with Union Parishad Bodies:** To engage Union Parishad bodies and share project progress, the meeting will be organized in each of four Unions with the participation of union Parishad bodies. During the meeting, the recommendation of the participants will be collected to improve the project activities. Following COVID-19 preventive measured, 11 members headed by the chairman will participate in each meeting.
- 17. Exposure of the message of peaceful coexistence:** To create the attention of the host community people, the message of peaceful coexistence will be displayed through the billboard in front of the Union Parishad office and important places of the local market. Different types of pictures and content that contain messages of peaceful coexistence will be presented. It will create an immediate impression of a positive outlook toward host community people. There will be 8 billboards be installed in important places.
- 18. Broadcasting Pro-human rights and refugee rights narratives using online Radio:** To promote pro-human rights narratives, and awareness among the people of Cox's Bazar on human rights, the project will use the power of Online Radio. This online radio will use the website, social media like Facebook, YouTube to broadcast different programs. The radio will be used as a "Fact Checker" and it will create positive narratives to counter the negative narratives by publishing

content on the website, YouTube channel and Facebook. It will also continuously broadcast the message of peaceful coexistence, human rights, and refugee rights. For example; interview with a social cohesion committee member or influential stakeholder, the result of improving peaceful coexistence project activities, etc. In the last two months of the year, all the project activities and the result will be broadcasted through 4 programs.

- 19. Workshop with social cohesion committee on virtual campaigning:** To create positive narratives, and to create pro-human rights narratives sensitization of local social cohesion committee working for the host community, day-long workshops on cybersecurity, human rights, human dignity, and social cohesion will be facilitated. Prominent local resource persons will conduct the sessions. As they are part of the community people, so it will be effective to counter the negative narratives in this regard. They will share practical experiences and challenges on the various issues. They will play an important role to improve social cohesion.
- 20. Ward level awareness session with women:** To create awareness at the family level on social cohesion and reduce the risk of conflict between Rohingya and the host community, 36 sessions will be organized in the wards of 4 unions. The session will be facilitated by ward members and the social cohesion committee on the importance of social cohesion with the participation of 15-20 women in each session. Presentation and videos on human rights will be presented. At the ending of the session, there will be a quiz competition on the session and the best performer will be awarded. It will create a positive mentality among the women of the host community about the Rohingya community and they will be sensitized to human rights.
- 21. Meeting with social media activists:** Social media activists have been playing an important role to motivate people and to highlight any issue in society. To influence them to publish positive news and to work as a fact-checker to abolish confusion and to create social harmony, a meeting will be arranged with the participation of 20 influential social media workers of Ukhiya, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar. The meeting will be organized in Cox's Bazar.
- 22. The orientation of local club on the role of NGO:** To present the role of NGOs in local development and the role of youth to ensure social cohesion, 7 orientations will be organized with 7 influential clubs of the host community. The club management committee along with 12-15 club members will participate in the orientation. Articles of Human Rights, the importance of social cohesion and NGO activities in the host community will be presented. They will make an action plan to promote social cohesion along with sports competition. All 7 clubs will be supported by sports materials. The activity will engage them with social activities like tree plantation, cleaning campaign, blood grouping and blood donation campaign and sports competition. It will also create a positive attitude about NGO activities and the Rohingya community among youths of the host community.
- 23. Interaction visit of union Parishad standing committee to Rohingya camp:** Standing committee members of the host community will visit the nearest Rohingya camps to create interaction between both the communities. During the meeting, they will meet with youth, imam, community leader and women leader to find out the gaps and risk factors in improving social cohesion. They will also prepare an action plan to mitigate findings or gaps. The committee will meet with CiC after the meeting to share findings and seeking for recommendations.
- 24. Meeting with union-level Community Police:** Union level community police play an important role to maintain local security. To sensitize them on Human Rights, the importance of social cohesion and to vibrant them on their role and responsibility, 4 meetings will be organized with community police of 4 unions near the Rohingya camps. In each of the meetings, 16 community

police will participate. It will reduce the risk of conflict between both communities. The mentality of solving the problems at the community level will be created.

- 25. Awareness-raising in Bazar Management committee:** To raise awareness on the importance of social cohesion among the Bazar management committee of most crowded 8 bazars near Rohingya camp where host and Rohingya community people gather, 8 awareness raising meeting will be arranged. In each of the meetings, 15-20 members of the Bazar management committee will participate. They will discuss how to maintain discipline and social harmony. They will develop an action plan to ensure balanced and peaceful trading for Rohingya and host community people. It will encourage traders to maintain a good relationship with both the community.
- 26. Meeting with imam and mosque management committee:** Religious speech can motivate people to be humanistic and sympathetic. To motivate the host community people of near Rohingya camp through religious speech, the meetings will be organized with the Mosque management committee on the importance of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. After the meeting, Imam will discuss the importance of social cohesion through the view of Islam during Jummah sermon. 24 mosques of the host community near 8 Rohingya camps will be selected and facilitated one time.
- 27. Monthly Desktop Newsletter and website uploading:** The project Coordinator will produce this monthly desktop newsletter that reflected project activities and best practices. This newsletter will be distributed to Union Parishad, Schools, Colleges, Madrashes and government offices and online circulation to CCNF, NGO platform, ISCG and uploaded on COAST website. Different event and theme papers/ keynote papers, newspaper coverage will also be uploaded on COAST websites.

3.2. *Performance summary of the major activities*

Performance Indicator	Achievement/Result
8 dialogues were completed with the participation of Rohingya and host community leaders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 111 host and Rohingya community leaders participated in the dialogues. • 12 activities promoting social cohesion are listed through the dialogues.
6 activities (tube well, guide wall etc.) identified through dialogues are completed among both the communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the recommended 12 activities, 5 activities that are seriously affecting social cohesion are finalized. • About 1000 people will be benefitted by these activities.
36 ward level awareness sessions on social cohesion and human rights for the only female are completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 897 women leaders from 36 wards of 4 unions are sensitized to social cohesion and aware of COVID-19.
2 seminars on the eve of Human Rights Day are arranged in Ukhiya and Teknaf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 influential leaders and government officials from the host community refreshed and sensitized on human rights.
4 meetings with Union level Community Police on "Importance of Social Cohesion and role of Community Policing".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 village police of 4 unions sensitized on human rights and social cohesion. • 16 Government officials and community leaders participated

7 orientations with local clubs on the role of NGOs in local development and the importance of social cohesion, social harmony, human rights and peaceful coexistence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 127 influential youths from 7 local clubs oriented on NGOs activities and role of NGOs to develop Cox's Bazar.
33 interactive sessions on human rights and the importance of social cohesion at educational institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1889 youths from educational institutions participated in 33 human rights sessions. • Participants were sensitized to human rights and social cohesion.
32 interactive sessions on human rights and the importance of social cohesion at Rohingya camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 495 Rohingyas are sensitized to social cohesion and human rights.
4 union level awareness session on the importance of social cohesion and human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 union level leaders and journalists are sensitized on social cohesion and human rights.
4 Interaction visits of Union Parishad Standing Committee leader to Rohingya camps to improve social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 standing committee members of 4 unions visited the Rohingya camp • 58 Rohingya community leaders and 2 CiC participated in the meetings.
41 meetings with imam and mosque management committee of the host community to raise awareness on social cohesion and human rights during Jummah Sermon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 296 religious leaders are sensitized to social cohesion through the meetings. • 14 imams discussed the issue during the Jummah sermon.
8 meetings with the Bazar management committee to ensure balanced & peaceful trading and the importance of social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 182 Bazar management committee members committed to ensuring balanced and peaceful trading in the bazaars near the camps
4 meetings with union Parishad to promote social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 union Parishad members and 69 members of the standing committee engages and participated in different social cohesion activities to promote peaceful coexistence.
4 meetings with journalists, online activists on promoting human rights through reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54 journalists understood the importance of promoting human rights during report publishing in print media and social media. • A total of 67 reports were published on the project activities in 2020.
Daylong journalists' visit to NGO activities in the host community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 journalists visited 5 important activities implemented by UNHCR in Teknaf. • 18 reports published on the visit.

4. Review of the project

As most of the activities of the project are related to social awareness and peacebuilding so, they can be assessed by quantitative information or data. Considering the objective of the project the review consists of 3 major aspects;

- The relevance of the Project
- Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Project
- Sustainability of the Project

4.1 The relevance of the Project:

As the defined problems are being increased and the relation between both the communities is deteriorating day by day, improving peaceful coexistence became crying needs to ensure social harmony. But by the time of launching the project, there was a very limited understanding of social cohesion among local stakeholders and no baseline on the level of social cohesion in the community was available. They were indifferent about the importance of improving peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. They thought repatriation is delayed by the influence of NGOs and the negligence of the government. The project effort was dedicated to defining the understanding of the importance of improving social cohesion among the community leaders of both the communities.

During a meeting with union Parishad members, one of the members from Rajapalong union Parishad said, "I was engaged with the project activities in the last year. All the activities are important to face the on-going crisis. To minimize the anger of both communities and to improve peaceful coexistence, the activities are praiseworthy. But there is a limitation of the activities. I think it should be implemented broadly in host and Rohingya community simultaneously."

The activities are implemented in the Rohingya camps after an assessment by Relief Refugee and Repatriation Commissioner. During the implementation and of the activities in the camp and host community, most of the time government officials were engaged and shared their consent of relevancy of the project activities. To accelerate the project activities, local government representatives and government officials recommended the best practice of improving social cohesion.

4.2 Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Project:

Targeting influential community leaders, the project started working with the people of different professions and categories who are directly or indirectly engaged with the communities. The following institutions are considered as the unit of the project implementation;

- Upazila Parishad
- Union Parishad
- Educational Institution
- Religious Institution
- Relevant Government Office
- Rohingya Camp
- Local Club

During the interview with local community leaders, they said that they have given shelter to the Rohingyas considering humanity and sympathy. But now, they are very much irritated due to the delay of the Rohingya repatriation. On the other hand, they are facing enormous problems and panic by the incidents repeatedly occur in the camps. But it is true that until repatriation, social cohesion is mandatory for their safety and security. The importance of social cohesion becomes clear through the participation of different seminars, sessions, meetings, dialogue and camp visits. To sustain a peaceful environment the initiatives or the activities are very effective.

Most of the teachers of educational institutions of Ukhiya and Teknaf acknowledged that their students developed extra-curricular activities and enriched their knowledge of human rights through the project activities in educational institutions. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the flow is interrupted.

4.3 Sustainability of the Project:

COAST Trust in collaboration with UNHCR successfully launched a discourse on the level of social cohesion in Ukhiya and Teknaf in 2019, and thus the project team utilized the experience and learnings during the design and implementation of the project in 2020. A critical part of various stakeholders involved in project events and discussions, in their turn, utilized the social cohesion understanding to recommend the best ways. The stakeholders who participated in project activities expressed their commitment and interest in further developing the understanding and incorporating social cohesion aspect to improve peaceful coexistence. Simultaneously to further exploration and development of the social cohesion approaches, the project team planned to focus on youths and local government who are considered as the most influential and effective units to sustain the efforts.

The key stakeholders think that the activities should be continued broadly as the risk of conflict among both the communities is increasing day by day. The relationship between the communities is getting worse as the Rohingya repatriation is delayed. On the other hand, most of the Rohingyas are passing their time idle instead of engaging with work that also created a risk of their involvement with illegal activities. At this moment, they should be sensitized continuously.

5. Major learnings

- Youths of host and Rohingya communities are at risk of engaging with illegal activities and they can play a vital role to promote social cohesion, so, their involvement will accelerate social cohesion.
- The involvement of local government representatives makes the activities effective and efficient.
- The involvement of the host community people who live in the camp area makes the dialogues effective.
- Sensitization sessions should be increased in the camps in proportion to the huge population.
- Religious leaders should be sensitized strongly as they can influence and motivate common people.
- Dialogues create a platform to share the problems and opinions of both the communities that reduce anger and hate.

6. Major challenges

- To sensitize the community people's awareness is important. But due to the COVID-19 situation, the scope of mass gathering and interaction became narrowed.
- The approval process of the activity implementation is getting complicated day by day.
- Unexpected occurrences in the camp area create panic among the host community people and it also misleads the environment of social cohesion.
- Financial, social and cultural hindrances occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic that divided both the communities and increased social distance.
- Continuous negative narratives about the Rohingya community.

7. Major recommendations

Specific Recommendations were formulated based on data and information generated through the course of the project review. Some of the major recommendations are:

- COAST Trust should continue building momentum and efforts to promote social cohesion understanding and mainstreaming.
- A baseline survey should be conducted at the beginning of the project launching to compare the changes.
- Existing networks are to be broadly utilized to promote further discussion on social cohesion.
- Working with and involving media in the social cohesion discourse could be considered as a priority to spread understanding of social cohesion and promote relevant concepts.
- The ideas and approaches of social cohesion should be broadly spread and discussed with other governmental entities, development agencies, international organizations and CSOs.
- The strategy should be developed to disseminate the social cohesion progress report and recommendations.
- New practices based on the recommendations from community leaders, government officials and key stakeholders can be introduced and developed to promote social cohesion.

8. Conclusion

To sum up the review, it can be mentioned that the community engagement with the project activities is satisfactory but it can be improved. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult to work on a large scale. But an alternative plan should be taken and incorporate to face the challenges.