



Together We Stand

Glimpses of Community-Based Protection activities
by DRC Bangladesh



Funded by
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COUNCIL



‘In August 2017, an outbreak of hostilities in Myanmar triggered the displacement of more than 600,000 Rohingya people, who fled across the border into Bangladesh to seek refuge. Their plight not only affected the lives of Rohingya men, women and children, but also the communities in Bangladesh who became their hosts. Population density was already high in Bangladesh and resources stretched, when thousands of Rohingya arrived at their doorstep in the flood and disaster-prone district of Cox’s Bazar that overnight turned into the world’s largest refugee camp complex. As of 2022, an estimated 919,000 Rohingya refugees and 514,000 host community members in Cox’s Bazar now reside and face dire needs of humanitarian assistance. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is assisting both Rohingya and their host communities to enhance their protection, build new livelihoods, improve shelter conditions, and offer critical camp management support.

I am pleased to present you a collection of inspiring photo stories ‘**Together We Stand**’ from DRC Community-Based Protection (CBP) activities in Cox’s Bazar.’

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Country Director
Danish Refugee Council
Bangladesh

DRC Sectors in Bangladesh



Protection

(Case Management, Protection Monitoring, Community-Based Protection, Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence)



Economic Recovery

(Livelihoods, Environmental Protection)



Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding



Shelter & Settlements

(Shelter, Site Development)



Camp Coordination & Camp Management

(Site Management Support)

WHEN: In Bangladesh since 2017 providing emergency assistance to Rohingya arriving from neighbouring Myanmar.

WHAT: DRC programming in Bangladesh through four DRC sectors: Protection, Economic Recovery, Shelter & Settlements, and Camp Coordination & Camp Management.

HOW: DRC works with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) of the Government of Bangladesh and the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to provide humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar.

For more details please visit -

DRC website: www.drc.ngo

DRC Bangladesh web page:

www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/

DRC Bangladesh dashboard:

www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/dashboard-bangladesh/



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CONVENE TO HYGIENE



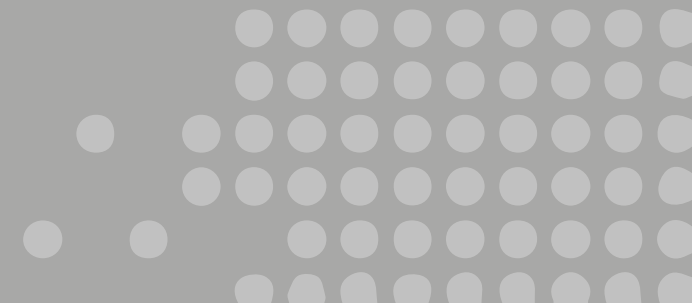


Feminine hygiene is often overlooked in our camp. As a result, girls and women are left to manage their periods on their own, many people are compelled to reuse old rags. And it is not something we discuss with anyone. An NGO provided us some disposable pads two years ago; we used them for a few months before they ran out, and we no longer receive such pads. We couldn't afford sanitary pads, so we used old cloths, which caused a lot of itching and infections. We now know how to make our own reusable sanitary pads thanks to DRC for the training and materials. If we can't maintain hygienic practices, our entire lives will be endangered. It is especially important for adolescent girls like us.

- Yasmin, ADG member, Camp 11



Menstrual hygiene is integral to women's health and wellbeing. Poor menstrual hygiene, however, can pose serious health risks, like reproductive and urinary tract infections (UTI) which can result in future infertility and birth complications. A group of 14 girls of the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar received training from DRC, along with cloth, scissors, needles, underwear, and other materials to make and use the reusable sanitary pads. They sew the pads and then wash and dry them in the sun before using the pads. DRC protection staffs also instruct the girls in safe use and hygienic maintenance. The members make pads for themselves but also distribute to other women in the camp. They share the pad making techniques as well, so that other women and girls are able to make the pads themselves and teach others. Approximately 350 reusable pads were produced during the training phase in March, which supported almost 58 women and girls, 6 pads for each person.





**RESISTING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

DRC

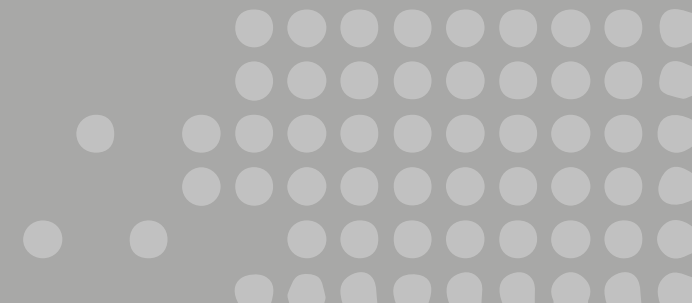


In 2017, I fled Myanmar for Bangladesh and married in 2018. However, after a year of marriage, my husband began to abuse and torture me since my family could not afford to give him with money on a daily basis. In the meantime, I gave birth, and my husband began to sleep outside at night. He wanted to marry another girl since I was no longer attractive. The level of torture was gradually raised. He came to kill me with a machete one day, and I ran to the DRC CBP office. Then, on the advice of experts and CiC, I returned to my parents. They're working together to solve my problem.

- Amena (pseudonym)
Rohingya Camp



DRC Community-Based Protection team provided awareness session on Child Marriage in camps and host areas. Almost 350 people received awareness messages and actively participated in the sessions.





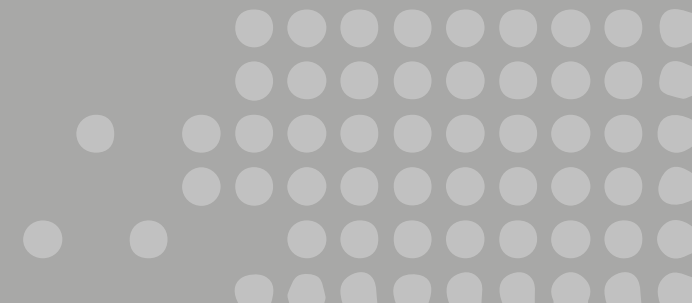


We get plastic buckets as waste bins, but there aren't enough water carriers, so people use them to carry and store water as well as throw waste around. As a result, we decided to build these bamboo waste bins, which will assist us in remaining clean and free of skin diseases. We will also be able to give our children with a safe environment in which to play.

- Mohammed Hosen
Camp 6



Typically, some organisations give plastic buckets and drums to be used as waste bins in camp 6. However, as they do not have a water drum, people use these as a water storage. As a result, the community requested to the CBP team that a bamboo-made basket can be used as a recycle bin. Camp 6 male group members made 60 bins, which they distributed to 60 families, enough for 257 people to keep their shelter clean.



ROAD SAFETY SIGNS





We have a market where a lot of vehicle mobility occurs on a daily basis. A goat died and a child was hurt in an accident a few months ago. As a result, we recommended to the DRC CBP group for some road safety awareness signboards. And no mishaps occur after the signs are placed.

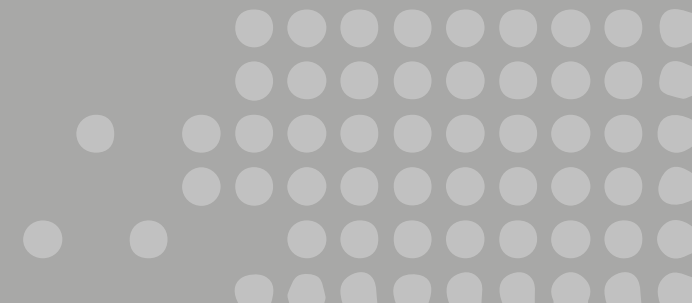
- Mongfu Ching Chakma
Farmer, Telkhula Bazar

Many large vehicles pass through our Rohingya camp's main highways. However, these signs raise awareness of road safety among drivers and pedestrians.

- Toyoba
Camp 10



For drivers and others who use the road, traffic signs give useful information. It reflects traffic laws that promote safety and aid in the communication of road safety information to drivers and pedestrians in order to reduce the danger of road accidents. The majority of the signs on the signboards are made up of pictures rather than words so that everyone can comprehend them. Because it is important for everyone to understand what the image represents. This year, the CBP team installed 11 signboards at Rohingya camp 10, which is home to around 30,000 people, and 6 signboards in Palongkhali Ward 6. These signboards will benefit around 200 families. Through this Community-led-Project, the CBP team reached around 1200 people, including males, females, and adolescents.





LIGHTENING

DRC CBP team conducted DRR sessions on fire safety, lightning, landslide, cyclone preparedness, and flood. CBP also provided fire safety training to the Rohingya and Bangladeshi host community members to mitigate the risk for fire incident in host areas and reached around 3,500 beneficiaries through awareness sessions and training.

120 Rohingya community members received special training on constructing safe shelter before any climate disaster.



It was a stormy night with thunderclaps. We were all frightened inside when a bolt of lightning hit a tree right above our home. We followed the advice of DRC volunteers to stay inside during lightning and thus we saved our lives.

- Tibula Chakma,
Villager, Ukhiya



FIRE



Our Rohingya camp is overcrowded and congested with shelters. As a result, it spreads quickly in the event of a fire. However, we took part in DRC's fire safety training and learned some basic firefighting strategies, including the use of water, sand, extinguishers, and other tools. It helped us gain confidence in fighting with fire.

- Mohammed Zohar, camp 10



CYCLONE



Our Cox's Bazar area is located right beside the Bay of Bengal. So a disaster like a cyclone occurs here. We received disaster risk reduction training, so we now understand the importance of signal flags, how to secure valuable papers, where to find shelter for ourselves and our cattle, and what to do before, during, and after a cyclone. We were also prepared before Cyclone *Ashani* in May, although it didn't have much of an affect in our area. We believe we would be able to reduce risk if a cyclone comes since we are now aware.

- Baunu Chakma Villager, Ukhiya



DRC

PEER MECHANISM



In our camp, there are pregnant women, elderly people, and children. So we count how many young adults are in the blocks and who will care after whom in the case of a disaster. We do it as part of our emergency preparedness measures.

- Bodiujjaman, camp 11



LANDSLIDE



We can now identify hazardous hills and where to go for assistance with soil retention after taking part in the DRR sessions. We are aware of ways to reduce landslide risk.

- Kamal Hosen, Camp 8W



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION





A community should listen to everyone, not just politicians, because there are many excellent ideas from social influencers like religious leaders and teachers. It also helps us in resolving community conflicts.

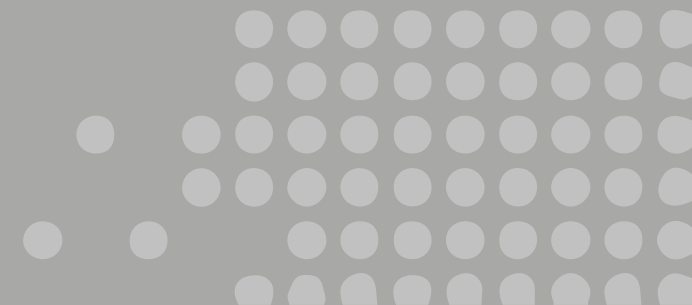
- Anancha Barua
Farmer, Ukhiya



CBP host team conducted awareness sessions on Community leadership & conflict resolution with DRC community protection groups and reached 307 community members (female- 217, male-90) through these sessions. After this kind of sessions, community people learned that if they make any kind of decision including all community & community leader's opinion, then it will be so much effective for them. Now they always took any kind of decision by discussing with the communities to mitigate their area's protection issues or others.

When everyone participates before making a decision, the odds of making a mistake are reduced. Because we can get a variety of viewpoints from various people, which is beneficial to the community.

- Nandashree Vikkhu
Vante (Buddhist religious leader)
Ukhiya



NO MORE CHILD MARRIAGE



DRC

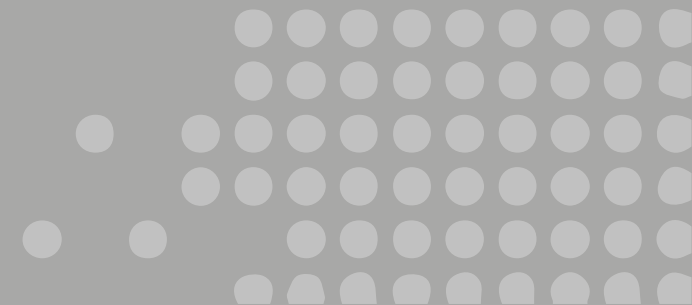
Together We Stand



Two years ago, while I was in fifth grade, a boy proposed to me and asked me to marry him.' He also persuaded his relatives to have a conversation with my parents. But I want to continue my education, and I am aware of the dangers of child marriage. It will endanger my education, health, and ambitions, and I do not want to marry before finishing my studies. These are things I learned at a DRC session. So I talked to my mother and tried to explain my concerns to her. She also convinced my father. Because my parents stood with me, I was able to avoid a child marriage.
- Yasmin Farzan, Ukhiya



DRC CBP team conducted awareness sessions on child protection to make community members about child rights, child trafficking, child marriage and child labour. CBP team reached 279 beneficiaries in different location from Rajapalong & Palongkhali including male, female, adolescent boys and girls.



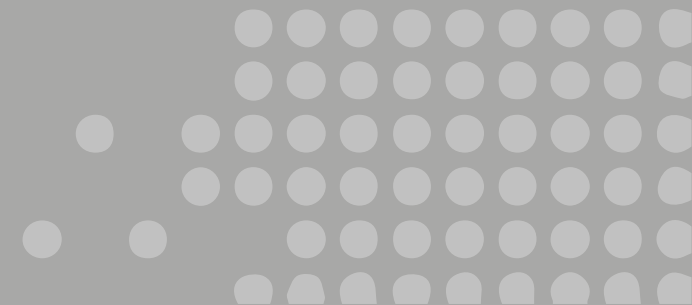
**STAY SAFE FROM
TRAFFICKING**





CBP host team conducted awareness sessions on Human trafficking with the community-based groups and reached 140 beneficiaries in different location from Palongkhali including male, female, adolescent boys and girls.

In our neighborhood, there have been numerous cases of human trafficking. From here to Dhaka, one of my cousins was trafficked. There is also another case of a classmate of mine. As a result, I became concerned about it and attended DRC sessions on human trafficking. My mom took part in the event as well. So now I know how to recognise when someone is attempting to follow you with such intent, as well as how to prevent being followed by someone suspicious.
- Mariyam Akter, Ukhiya



SANITARY TOILET FOR THE COMMUNITY





We wanted a community sanitary toilet in a public space rather than on private property since it will provide sanitation to people who are still unable to provide healthy sanitation for their families.

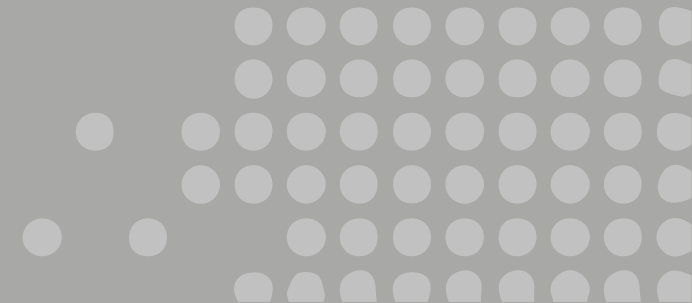
- Liton
Business person, Ukhiya



Many residents in PF para village in Rajapalong union used open toilets, which has resulted in a slew of problems. Many people in their communities were affected with diarrhea, vomiting, and other diseases. As a result, with the help of community members, the DRC CBP team assisted beneficiaries in constructing a sanitary latrine at PF para. The community chose a location close PF para's Buddha Mondir (Pagoda) for the toilet construction. They chose this location since it is readily accessible to all, and 300 people in their neighborhood benefit from the sanitary latrine.

Previously, children defecated in the open, and even poor women did not go to the toilet during the day, instead, they waited until night since they had no other choice. Our women and children, on the other hand, now have a safe place to go.

- Monju Barua
Housewife, Ukhiya



MAPPING SAFE SHELTERS





We are the DRC Adolescent Boys Group, and we draw maps and mark safe shelters in case of disaster like cyclone or flash flood. We also share this map with our family and neighbours so that they may take precautions as well.

– Mojobur Rahman
Member, ADB
Camp 11



A total of 140 Rohingya boys and men were provided training on how to map out shelters. They also inform their own community about where to seek safety in the event of a calamity.



REPELLING MOSQUITO



DRC

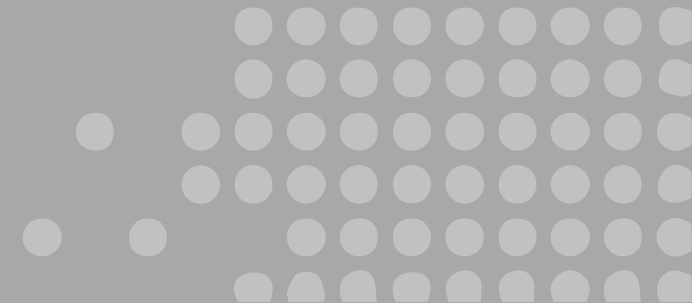
Together We Stand



Mosquitoes are a concern for us, especially for children and women. It is, however, so effective that DRC community-based protection provided mosquito repellent to our volunteers. So, in comparison to earlier, our neighbourhood's mosquito problem is now under control.
- Aysa, Camp 12



Mosquitoes pose a menace to camp residents. Dengue fever, Malaria, and other mosquito-borne diseases afflict the population. The team distributed mosquito sprayers to the local community in the camps. Every day, volunteers spray their blocks with mosquito repellent. This activity has a direct impact on over a thousand people. The volunteers also instruct individuals on how to stay safe from mosquitos by cleaning their drains and shelters.



The Community-Based Protection Programme is funded by the European Union and supports approximately 20,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi host community members in Cox's Bazar.

Disclaimer: This document covers humanitarian aid activities implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein should not be taken, in any way, to reflect the official opinion of the European Union, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.