



UN VOLUNTEERS' RESPONSE TO ROHINGYA CRISIS

From the initial days of the crisis, UNV Bangladesh has been supporting the Rohingya refugee response through mobilizing UN Volunteers who are supporting the education, WASH, healthcare, research, nutrition, child care, gender issues and many more sectors around the refugee camps. Till now we have deployed UN Volunteers with IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UN Women and UNHCR. Here, we are presenting the inspiring stories of our UN Volunteers who are relentlessly working to support a better life for the Rohingya refugees.

Anika Tanjim

UNV Education Officer, UNICEF

Ms. Anika Tanjim works with UNICEF education team to ensure quality education and meaningful engagement for Rohingya children at field level.



In the Rohingya culture, it has been observed that in many cases when the girls reach puberty, they drop out from learning rapidly.

When Anika first witnessed 12 girls dropping out from Learning Centers (LCs) during her monitoring visits, with her team, she tried to motivate the religious leaders, community and parents. Then with the support of partners they found a way to bring them back in 'girls only' separate sessions.

Now the number has expanded from 12 to 25 who are coming to LCs to learn and dream again! Inspired by these, UNICEF partners are assessing the scope of expanding such opportunities to ensure girls participation and raising awareness among the community.

"Bringing young girls back to learning again and being able to engage the community to do so against their cultural and religious taboo is one of my lifetime achievements. It has not only allowed the community to rethink the role of girls and women for a progressive society but to actively support the cause to bring a change," says Anika.

Anika was recognized in the WFP humanitarian book publication title "unsung hero" as one of the influential woman figure to impact lives of Rohingya community as well.





Urmi Das

UNV CAD & Surveyor, IOM

With IOM Infrastructure team, Ms. Urmi Das supports Rohingya response by planning, drawing, and preparing architectural designs.



She also monitors the construction projects that is designed for the betterment of the life of Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar. Projects that she is supporting include Community Multipurpose Buildings, Health Posts, Mental Healthcare Centers, Police Camps, LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Distribution Centers etc.

These infrastructures play a vital role exceling the distribution system and capacity, providing easy access of mental and psychosocial support improving health facilities for the Rohingya community.

Md Yeasir Arafat

UNV Knowledge Management Officer, UNICEF

“Every day I feel inspired working as a UN Volunteer when I visit and observe Rohingya Refugee lives in the camp area. They are brave souls; together we are fighting and trying to empower them in order to eliminate their humanitarian crisis”, says Mr. Md Yeasir Arafat



In the world's biggest refugee settlement region for humanitarian activities, as a Knowledge Management Officer in Nutrition Sector, Yeasir is responsible for documentation, analyzing and visualizing the actual scenario and stories through his articles, contents, photography and data visualization. With the help of his team, he developed his skills in data & information management and innovative prospects of sharing coherent knowledge. Recently one of his Nutritional success story ‘PUA GOM ASE - Rohingya mother says, “My child is fine and healthy now”’ got good response and appreciation from colleagues and other partner organizations.

Yeasir also stresses, *“As a UN Volunteer, I have been able to broaden my horizons regarding Refugees and humanitarian response, and learned life experiences, skills to connect the world through sharing proper information and knowledge.”*



Md Arifuzzaman

UNV Child protection Officer for UNICEF

Mr. Md Arifuzzaman has been working for UNICEF Cox's Bazar Field Office where he is involved in monitoring and reporting about the activities of 10 Implementing Partners including local Department of Social Services counterparts.

Arifuzzaman has been contributing to improve the quality of child protection response, including adherence to minimum standards, to reduce the vulnerability of children to violence, exploitation and abuse and ensure their access to survivor center's response services.



“Volunteering is the most rewarding thing that forces me to get out of my comfort zone, learn something every day, rely on other people, but most of all it gives me confidence about myself and my abilities. After these experiences I will have the strength and self-belief to handle any curveball”, says Arifuzzaman.



Arifuzzaman is also supporting to improve program implementation which in turn leads to increased social cohesion in regions affected by conflict and capacity development of partners through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training while working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counterparts.

We are inspiration in action

UNICEF'S FIRST DEPLOYMENT OF UN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WITH UNV BANGLADESH

For the first time UNICEF has deployed eight UN Community Volunteers with UNV Bangladesh. This partnership will be helpful for penetrating effective multi-sectoral coordination into underprivileged community as our dedicated UN Community Volunteers are experienced in community engagement and participation.

Our UN Community Volunteers are experienced and community driven skilled personnel who are extremely passionate about serving their community through positive attitude and volunteerism. With UNICEF, under the project “Building Rohingya refugee and host community resilience in Cox’s Bazar” (DEVCO), they will support the implementation of community-based activities, provide regular monitoring and oversight of DEVCO activities, and support communications and visibility efforts. We believe through their commitment they will successfully support existing local development efforts and resilience building.

Meanwhile we have mobilized 138 UN Community Volunteers serving with UNDP on their Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities (LIUPC) Project around 19 municipalities across Bangladesh to support better life for the urban poor.

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