



BRAC community health worker supporting Cholera Vaccination initiative at Camp-11 © HCMP Health and Nutrition/ BRAC 2021

Facilitating Cholera Vaccination in Rohingya Camps

BRAC is coordinating with the Bangladesh Government, WHO, and other health partners to roll out Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) Campaign for the Rohingya community as a pre-emptive measure to alleviate threats of the cholera outbreak. Before the first round of vaccination started, BRAC Community-Based Protection (CBP) started a campaign on 26th September 2021 that continued until 10th October 2021. The CBP team disseminated audio loudspeaker messages and community facilitators conducted sessions at six camps to mobilise targeted communities for OCV awareness. In total, 64 sessions were conducted including 458 participants (156 male and 302 female).

The first round of the vaccination programme was carried out from 10 October to 25 October 2021. A total of 101 Community Health Workers (CHW) from the BRAC HCMP Health and Nutrition sector provided intensive support to carry out the first round of vaccination. BRAC is providing vaccination support to 15,021 households (68,324 persons; Male = 33,279; Female = 35,045) in nine camps.

“We are getting very positive response from the respective community people for getting vaccinated”, said one of the frontline health staff of BRAC HCMP.

BRAC in Bhasan Char



The Landscape of Bhasan Char
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BRAC conducted an assessment in Bhasan Char in January 2021 and carried out consultations with the government to identify the needs and explore opportunities for BRAC's interventions in the area. Based on the assessment findings, BRAC is carrying out interventions in education, agriculture and environment, water, sanitation and health, and TB and malaria. A summary of activities for October 2021 are given below:

Life skill education for children

Until October 2021, BRAC established five learning centres to provide education to 400 children aged 4-14 years and necessary classroom supplies were delivered. Five adolescent clubs also established engaging 300 adolescents aged 10-24 years to get life skill materials. A total of 400 learners received packages of student supplies and books. COVID-19 prevention materials (mask, soap, hand sanitiser, soap, and detergent powder) have been distributed among 410 children. One stakeholder consultation, coordination and networking workshop was organised with different stakeholders.

Aquaculture and agriculture for subsistence

The big pond re-excavation activity is generating income for 2,353 Rohingya community people including 114 women and seven transgender persons. Plastic net fencing work has been completed for 30 small ponds after getting allocation from CiC. Twenty-nine (29) ponds have been prepared for fish culture and fish culture accessories and fertilizer, lime, feed, bamboo, GI-wire, medicine, net were distributed among community members for 27 small ponds. A total of 20,000 fish fingerlings have been released in the ponds out of the targeted 43,600 numbers. Water quality tests have been done in 60 ponds out of 248 ponds for better productivity. Four hundred participants from different clusters were identified for vegetable cultivation. Three learning demos for vegetable cultivation have been established at clusters 40 and 76, and the NAVY campuses.

WASH Initiatives

The WASH team is continuing to clean 59,540 feet of drains every month on a regular basis to ensure a healthy environment in clusters. A total of 240 hygiene sessions were conducted with the targeted participants. Community volunteers raised hygiene related awareness at 1,469 households following the ISCG standards. Cleaning activities covered 2,361 households and 90 waste bins have been cleaned until October. Four WASH committees were formed and received orientation on the operations. Two campaigns were conducted to build hygiene awareness to prevent Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).

Tuberculosis (TB) prevention

Tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities reached 840 households to disseminate preventive messages. Seventeen (17) TB presumptives were identified through the household visit. One TB case tested positive through Gene-Xpert and other diagnostics.

Shabbir: finding light of hope in Bhasan Char



Shabbir Ahmed is collecting cultivated fish from the pond at Bhasan Char © Abdullah Al Rashed/ Communication/ HCMP/ BRAC 2021

Shabbir Ahmed (35) is among those who came to Bhasan Char at the beginning of the relocation. Before coming to Bhasan Char Shabbir was living in a camp at Kutupalong, Cox’s Bazar with his wife and four children. He worked with several organisations as a volunteer. After reaching Bhasan Char, Shabbir was worried he would not find any work opportunity. However, once he reached Bhasan Char, BRAC discovered Shabbir’s interest and talent in community-based activities. BRAC involved him in community-based pond cultivation where community members engage in aquaculture collectively in a pond and use spaces around the pond for vegetable cultivation. BRAC provides necessary goods and technical assistance throughout the process. Every three months, the participants collect the fish and divide it equally among the members. Shabbir has become popular for his diligence and quick learning. Now, apart from being a pond cultivation participant, he is also working as a community volunteer. Shabbir said, “I am happy that I have plenty to do in Bhasan Char. Thanks to BRAC for giving me the opportunity”.

BRAC is providing Livelihood, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education and health support at Bhasan Char.

Media Coverage

1. Lessons Learnt Workshop on Child Protection
 - a) [UNB](#)
 - b) [The Financial Express](#)
2. Director General of BNFE visit
 - a) [The Business Standard](#)
 - b) [The New Age](#)

Social Media Posts

1. Community volunteers doing an early warning drill
 - a) [Facebook](#)
2. Sohel Shikder saves lives
 - a) [Facebook](#)
3. Community volunteers go door-to-door
 - a) [Facebook](#)
4. Rohingya volunteers are preventing Dengue on Bhasan Char
 - a) [Facebook](#)

SNIPPETS

Engagement Workshop with the RRRC

BRAC HCMP in collaboration with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) organised an engagement workshop on 26-27 October 2021. The specific objectives of the workshop are to celebrate success and building rapport, discuss key lessons learnt and challenges, and future opportunities in increasing quality. A total of 50 government officials participated in the workshop, amongst whom 22 are designated as Camp in Charge (CiC), 11 are assistant Camp in Charge and 17 are the officials from RRRC office. Total 50 BRAC colleagues participated including sector Leads, Area Managers, Program Managers, Govt Liaison manager, Govt Liaison officers, Head of Technical, Head of Programme and Head of Operations. The engagement workshop was interactive and brought different forms of reasoning, procedures, strategies to the discussion. The Government officials appreciated BRAC's humanitarian initiatives and shared reflection with valuable suggestions. RRRC officials also instructed all CiC to support BRAC activities and strengthen the collaboration for innovation and quality work outcome.



BRAC HCMP marks International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021



On 13th October 2021, HCMP celebrated International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas with participation from host community people and local government officials. The BRAC HCMP DRR team arranged quiz programs for school going children, and displayed festoons and stickers with awareness messages. The community people also participated in a discussion on how they are mitigating their exposure to disasters and the significance of awareness-raising.

World Mental Health Day 2021: 'Mental Health in an Unequal World'

On 10th October 2021, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Team (MHPSS) of the Child Protection sector from BRAC HCMP successfully celebrated 'World Mental Health Day 2021' in different camp locations with the Rohingya community. Focusing on the theme 'Mental health in an unequal world', MHPSS team arranged activities to involve community people of different ages, such as 'Creative Drawing sessions with Children', 'Well-being sessions with the caregivers' and 'well-being sessions with community feedback groups'. Besides, reflective and self-care session was arranged with different stakeholders and sector focal persons of camps 5 and 6 at the camp 5 CiC office premise. The overall objective was to focus and give an insight on mental health wellbeing to the community and stakeholders, encourage to seek support, and emphasize that together we can make a difference.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Child-centred Humanitarian Response



BRAC child protection sector has taken the initiative to distribute play materials to the children participating in the Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) at the Rohingya Camps. Following the COVID-19 prevention measures and government restrictions, the sector is not organising sessions in the learning centres, therefore a variety of play materials were distributed among 34,489 children through household visits. A training was organised on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) and Core Humanitarian Standard for 49 frontline staff members to enhance efficiency and foster better understanding on emergency response. The sector also arranged a two-day training of trainers (ToT) on the **Pashe Acchi** home visit initiative for 31 play leaders and nine mother volunteers of the Rohingya community to strengthen their capacity. Furthermore, 355 play leaders and 133 mother volunteers received five days long psychosocial support (PSS) training. Each group received 2 hours session in each day.

Systematic health support and COVID-19 measures

The BRAC HCMP Health and Nutrition sector is ensuring better health services through three primary healthcare centres (PHC) and eight health posts for both the Rohingya and host communities. 29,662 Rohingya patients received outpatient care while 63 patients were provided with inpatient care from the PHC. A total of 3,246 mothers received maternal and reproductive health services. As of October 2021, 3,045 caregivers of children aged below five were counselled on proper diet management and childcare. The sector also provided counseling to 1,644 caregivers of 0-23 months old children on infant and Young Child Feeding (YCF). As COVID-19 prevention measures, the community health workers disseminated awareness messages to 63,493 people and 154,512 people in the Rohingya camp and the host community respectively.

Food for all

The General food assistance (GFA) sector provided diversified food assistance to 28,386 households under Camps 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and Nayapara Registered Camp (NRC) through six e-voucher outlets. Porter service/alternative collector support was available to provide support to 498 elderly households (aged 60 and above), 435 women-headed households, 194 households with the disabled persons and 57 child-headed households. The market linkage intervention supplied 8,323 kgs of vegetables, 644 kgs of chicken and 1,080 pieces of egg to four fresh food corners located at Jadimura, Mochuni, Leda, and Unchiprang, with involvement from 56 farmers from the host community. Market assessment was conducted at camps 22 and 24, including with host community farmers for further strengthen the sector strategic plan.

Protecting legal rights



The BRAC HCMP protection sector is enabling the right and access of the Rohingya community in eight camps to get legal support. The legal assistance includes legal counselling, mediation, case filling at police stations and court, monitoring detention and release, and legal awareness sessions with the community. As of October 2021, a total of 470 persons of concern (POC) received legal support. Paralegal community volunteers conducted 1,424 legal awareness sessions on preventing child marriage, gender-based violence, and offensive acts. The legal awareness sessions also acquaint the community on available legal services e.g. case filing procedures. The sector gives special focus to Rohingya women and ensures sensitisation and awareness on seeking legal services.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Substantial and sustainable agriculture support



The agriculture and environment sector conducted capacity building training on improved homestead gardening to ensure efficient farming and nutritional security. This initiative covered 835 women from the host community and 4,335 households from the Rohingya camps. The sector also arranged a refresher training on poultry rearing with participation from 1,465 women from the host community. In preparation for the upcoming winter season, the sector is distributing agricultural inputs such as winter vegetable seeds, manure, fruit tree saplings, and vaccine and medicine for poultry among both the host and Rohingya communities. 3,300 fruit tree saplings (1,100 hog plum and 2,200 lemon) were distributed among 1,100 participants in the host community. Two mushroom production sites have been prepared on a pilot basis in camp-1 West and camp-4 and the production process is ongoing.

Enhanced protection for hygiene and sanitation

In the month of October, the WASH sector has taken dengue preventive measures in camp-2 East and camp-2 West. Camp cleaning program for dengue prevention incorporated household awareness sessions, and spraying of disinfectant using fogger machines all over the camp. 11 m3 of non-recyclable inorganic waste were dumped at Palongkhali Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) centre in coordination with UNDP, BDRCS, and SRC. Also, 417 m3 of organic waste and 3,254 m3 of inorganic waste were removed from the targeted intervention areas in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas. Moreover, 321 kg of composts were generated from organic waste. The sector observed Global Handwashing Day-2021 and National Sanitation Month 'October' in collaboration with the government. Following the observation, rallies, handwashing demonstrations, and discussions were placed to promote proper sanitation and health safety.

Emergency shelter support

BRAC HCMP shelter sector distributed six shelter building materials under the emergency shelter support and assistance through Rapid Damage Verification (RDV). Shelter building materials were distributed among 3,490 households under the regular shelter support and assistance through door to door visits. Labour support was provided to construct and repair 196 households of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI). To mitigate water logging and maintain sanitation surrounding the shelters, 215 metres of drain were constructed. The sector constructed 177 metres of stairs, 43 metres of ramp, and 30 metres of handrail to ensure safe access and mobility for women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and children. 227 metres of drum sheet retaining wall and 412 metres of bamboo bridge were constructed to save the shelters from landslides as well as strengthen the plinth of the shelters. 496 metres of roads and 67 metres of sandbag pathway were constructed enhancing the mobility of the community.

Improving self reliance and livelihoods



BRAC Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF) and Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) are jointly creating self-reliance opportunities for both Rohingya and host community women in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas through skill development and assisting to form linkages with Aarong. The main production centre is located at Zadimura, Rajapalong union in Ukhiya, near the refugee camps and settlements. Besides, six sub-centres in the host community located in three unions of Ukhiya upazila are used for both training and production. There are eight skill development training centres in five Rohingya camps, and six training centres are incorporated with BRAC Women Friendly Space (WFS) while the rest are placed in community centres. A total of 26 staff members are engaged to run the operations and arrange skill development training. As of October 2021, a total of 366 host community women and 217 Rohingya women received skill development training. A total of 379 women received incentive, amongst whom 247 are from the host community and 132 are Rohingyas. A total of 3,965 products were supplied to Aarong.

SECTOR-WISE SNAPSHOT: OCTOBER 2021

Host Community

- 2,186** women received maternal healthcare services
- 1,277** clients received family planning services
- 716** mothers and children referred for immunisation
- 1,336** supportive supervision and referral services provided by community health workers
- 3,549** people received tele-counselling services
- 4,110** poultry chicken vaccinated (third round)
- 300** vegetable seedlings distributed from community-based nursery
- 345** persons benefited through SGBV awareness sessions
- 3,671** cubic metres solid waste collected and disposed

Camps



Shelter

- 3,490** shelter material kits distributed
- 496** metres of road constructed
- 412** meters of bamboo bridge constructed including maintenance
- 67** metres of sandbag pathway constructed



Livelihoods and Food Security

- 28,386** households received food items within catchment-D to meet nutritional requirements
- 1,184** households received elderly porter services
- 8,012** most vulnerable households supported with fresh food



WASH

- 34,932** hygiene sessions conducted
- 80,631** feet-long community drain cleaned
- 94** new latrines constructed



Education

- 8,087** children enrolled and retained in primary education
- 213** learning centres equipped with COVID-19 prevention supplies
- 107** monthly refresher training sessions conducted for host community and Rohingya teachers



Child Protection

- 49** staff received capacity development training

Camps



Health and Nutrition

- 29,960** outpatient consultations provided through primary healthcare centres and health posts
- 6,392** malaria tests conducted
- 25** deliveries conducted in primary healthcare centres
- 285** TB patients diagnosed
- 1,522** antenatal care provided
- 2,908** early year stimulation services provided for children aged 0-36 months
- 1,644** mothers/caregivers of 0-23 months children received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)
- 439** adolescent girls received counselling on nutritional practices and recommended diet



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- 19** clinical mental health consultations conducted
- 246** women, men, girls, and boys received focused psychosocial and psychological care
- 14,198** women, men, girls, and boys participated in community-based group psychosocial group activities
- 88** individual counselling provided by psychologists



Site Management

- 2,055** community issues resolved
- 1,620** labourers employed on daily cash basis
- 6** camp coordination meetings facilitated



Agriculture and Environment

- 247** person received gardening input distribution
- 550** people received vertical gardening training



Protection

- 8,276** people reached with community-led messaging
- 732** men and boys participated in gender-based violence prevention programme
- 365** legal counselling sessions conducted
- 38** successful legal mediations conducted
- 7,143** complaints, feedback, questions received under the Community-based complaints mechanism



Ayesha Abed Foundation

- 25** people from Rohingya community received skill development training on hand embroidery
- 04** people from Host community received skill development training on hand embroidery

PROFILE ON GROUND

2,151
6,688
36%

staff providing critical services in camps and host communities
volunteers from both camps and host communities
of BRAC HCMP staff members are women

**Updated till 31 October 2021*

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

