



The arrival of 860,000 Rohingya refugees since August 2017 placed significant strain on people and services in the host community of Cox's Bazar, already one of the poorest and most vulnerable districts in Bangladesh. Around 33 percent of the population live below the poverty line. Education indicators are among the lowest in the country. Over half of girls marry before the age of 18 and close to 50,000 children are engaged in child labour. The strain on local services and resources creates tensions between the Rohingya and host communities. Due to this fragile and volatile setting, adolescents and youth from both communities have become increasingly vulnerable.

This project strives to engage young people through positive action to strengthen social cohesion, community relations, resilience, and improve the quality of life for both Bangladeshi and Rohingya adolescents and youth.

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Peace-building Project

Adolescents as agents of change and for peace



The Project

This European Union supported project aims to enhance peaceful co-existence among adolescents and youth, to strengthen social cohesion and resilience, and bridge gaps between Rohingya and Bangladeshi communities.

Over 20,500 Rohingya and Bangladeshi adolescents and youth will benefit from learning opportunities and skills development as part of this project.

More than 12,000 parents, community and religious leaders from the two communities will be engaged through community-based child protection committees and other organizations to discuss social issues affecting their young people and their communities and identify action-oriented solutions.

By establishing social hubs, this project strives to engage adolescents through positive action to strengthen relations, resilience, and improve the quality of life for both the Bangladeshi and Rohingya adolescents and youth.

Adolescence – a critical time for children’s development

UNICEF and partners are committed to supporting adolescent girls and boys in developing and reaching their full potential. Adolescence is a defining time in a child’s life, when young people are figuring out who they want to be in the world; an opportunity for growth, exploration and creativity.

Positive social relationships and environments enhance feelings of inclusion and belonging and lead to positive outcomes. Negative experiences increase fear, self-doubt or social isolation during this vulnerable time that can be carried into adulthood. When adolescents are supported by caring families and adults, as well as services attentive to their needs, they can develop to their full potential.

What is a social hub?

A social hub is a space where young people can socialize, learn and share skills with each other. They also learn peacebuilding competencies such as identifying root causes of tension, negotiation, conflict resolution, working with others and community engagement to equip them to become agents of change and build social cohesion and resilience. Each social hub has a target of 1000 adolescents and youth with equal participation from Rohingya and Bangladeshi communities.

Social hubs consist of activities such as:

- Life skills workshops
- Peacebuilding competency training and capacity building
- Access to information and computer literacy
- U-reporting
- Recreational and sports activities
- Support group orientation
- Learning and library facilities
- Mobilization of adolescents and youth to act as social change agents
- Storytelling training