FSS joint field visit
6 April 2022
Project title: Improving the protective environment for and self-reliance of affected populations across the Myanmar displacement axis.

Visited location: Women managed handicraft production, Patabari village, Rajapalong, Ukhiya.

Overview: Handicrafts production from locally available raw materials to increase livelihoods of the host and Rohingya women through skills development and income generation.

Project start date: 2020

Number of Beneficiaries and selection criteria: 20 beneficiaries in 3 different villages in the host community and 20 beneficiaries in camp 8E). Selection criteria matrix based on vulnerability (e.g., HHs with PWDs, women headed, with marginal and landless people). Participatory processes through community engagement with Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad.

Produced items: Bamboo products: baskets, mora (sitting stool), Kula (tray tool/tilled), Strainer, Flute.

Markets: Local market and ad-hoc fairs (e.g. International Women’s Day Fair).

Good practices:
- 7 days training with a consultant trainer
- In kind support after completion of the training (1000 pieces of bamboo)
- Technical backstopping (support to improve the quality of products and to innovate)

Phase out:
- Formed community group and will apply for registration to Department of Cooperatives through the facilitation from Union Parishad and technical assistance/guidance from Department of Women Affairs.
- Formation of an apex body is under process for capturing all benefits under an umbrella. A 9-member executive committee will be formed for overall management of the groups/committee.

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Organization | Implementing partners:
DRC
**Project title:** Integrating environmental management into DRR and DRM in Cox’s Bazar Host Communities.

**Visited location:** Training and Production Hub for income generation for host community, Ali Mora, Rajapalong, Ukhiya.

**Overview:** Enhanced community risk management for sustainable response to climate change hazards, resilience building, diversified livelihoods and agricultural production of Cox’s Bazar.

**Project start date:** 2021

**Number of Beneficiaries and selection criteria:** 905 beneficiaries: Selection criteria matrix based on vulnerability (e.g., HHs with PWDs and chronic illness, landless or land-poor, women headed, income below poverty line, school/college dropout youths, occasionally impacted by flash flood or other disasters).

**Produced items:** Clothing, jute craft, handicraft, bamboo craft, wooden craft, dry fish.

**Markets:**
- 2 shops will be established in Cox’s Bazar and 6 kiosks in hotels
- e-commerce platform (connecting beneficiaries to allow them to sell their products online)
- Searching for new buyers and connecting their orders with producers (buyers in Chittagong, Dhaka, international markets such as Italy, Australia, USA: Walmart)
- 6 product fairs will be organized

**Good practices:**
- Market and value chain analysis leading to the selection of 6 trades
- Skills development trainings (15-60 days) with a focus on product quality
- 2 days of DRR training and 5 days of business development training
- Input support after training completion (beneficiaries produce at home)
- 15 innovation hubs in villages and 1 training center
- Trade license

**Phase out:** Developed SOP for the Controlling body as per plan for the institutionalization: Grassroots BD will deal with marketing channelization, buyer sourcing, price negotiation, dealing with local buyers as well as suppliers. Grassroots BD will consist of 19 members, 15 of them are potential beneficiaries from different PIH (Production and Innovation Hubs), 2 from Prottyashi, 1 local Elite and 1 local government personal.

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Project title: AAF Self-reliance Projecttabari village, Rajapalong, Ukhiya.

Visited location: AAF-BRAC Centre, Zadimura, Rajapalong, Ukhiya.

Overview: The primary focus of this project is to create self-reliance opportunities for refugees and host community women by developing skills in craft production through Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF), a non-profit BRAC entity, and linking them with Aarong, a BRAC social enterprise, to reach the market. Aarong supplies raw materials and designs to AAF on a credit basis. AAF through its artisan/beneficiary’s supply chain completes value addition to the products and sends it back to Aarong.

Project start date: 2019

Number of Beneficiaries and selection criteria: Total 550 beneficiaries for 2022 (Host 300 and Rohingya Camp 250) Selection criteria: age (min 18 yrs.), basic experience in related work and family vulnerability (e.g., widow women, absence of an active working member).


Markets: Aarong Retail Chain.

Good practices: ○ Quality checking in each section ○ Providing skills development training on handicrafts ○ Creating income generation opportunities in vulnerable women in host community ○ Providing self-reliance opportunities in the Rohingya community

Phase out: Ongoing discussion with BRAC and UNHCR to sustain this project in Ukhiya.

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Project title: Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN).

Visited location: Nil Akash Self Help Group, Jaliapalong Union, Ukhiya.

Overview: EFSN programme is supporting vulnerable women in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkali, Pekua and Kutubdia with a multi-year livelihoods programming including a monthly subsistence allowance and providing technical and logistical support for market linkages and value chain development. After training and business plan development, BNFs receive a grant to start IGAs (different options: agricultural production, livestock and fish culture, handcrafts etc.).

Project start date: Pilot in 2012, current phase in 2018.

Number of Beneficiaries and selection criteria: 45,500 (100% women)
Survey based on inclusion and exclusion criteria (e.g., women-headed HHs, widow, single mother, ultra-poor but not having excessive loan to pay back).

Produced items: Blankets, table runners, pillowcases, chador, sari, scarf, cloth bag, wallet, jute items.

Markets: ○ EFSN shop in Kolatoli for local tourists and humanitarian community
○ Daraz e-shop
○ Individual orders from the local community (gifts for weddings, for new-born babies)
○ Ad hoc fairs (e.g., The World Food Day, Winter Market, International Women’s Day)

Good practices: ○ Entrepreneurial skill development and IGA skills development trainings (technical)
○ Training on behaviour change and communication (Nutrition, DRR, Gender, Protection and Disability Inclusion)
○ Training on leadership and financial management
○ Business seed capital for individual and group business
○ Close monitoring: regular home visits
○ Inclusion of PWDs among BNFs

Phase out: ○ Registration of body to the Department of Women Affairs
○ Creating beneficiaries’ network to continue production of handicrafts
○ Capacity strengthening and reaching international markets in cooperation with the Fair Trade Certified social business Prokritee.

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Organization | Implementing partners:
WFP/RIC
Recommendations

FSS Partners recommendations and lessons learnt from the joint field visit:
• Arrange refreshers training with innovative design/ideas to improve the quality of the product and increase market demand;
• Develop market linkages with like-minded actors to ensure fair/better prices and capitalize maximum benefits for sustainability;
• Organize cross-visits for beneficiaries for their exposure;
• Joint field visit is an effective learning event and allows to exchange views and ideas. It’s an opportunity to connect with other organizations, find out which organization is doing what and improve projects by replicating successful initiatives.

Acronyms:
AAF - Ayesha Abed Foundation
BNF- Beneficiary
DRM – Disaster Risk Management
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
EFSN- Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition
HH - Household
IGA – Income Generating Activity
PWDs – Persons with Disabilities
SOP – Standard Operating Procedure

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