

Training Report

Peace, Social Cohesion and Leadership



19 – 24 October 2020, Cox's Bazar



As an academic institution, the Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) envisions strengthening of peace and social cohesion amongst Rohingya and host community volunteers, humanitarian workers, and affected communities through training, participatory action research, and skills building. To achieve this vision CPJ developed a comprehensive training manual on Peace, Social Cohesion and Leadership.

BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) began with a focus on lifesaving interventions on reactive emergency responses, particularly in WASH and shelter provision. As the situation evolved, HCMP adopted new strategies to enhance peace and social cohesion among the displaced and the host communities and strengthen the humanitarian and development nexus. Through its integrated interventions, HCMP is working towards ensuring social inclusion by mainstreaming age, gender and diversity, and building community resilience to prepare for and respond to disastrous situations.

In October 2020 Centre for Peace and Justice, Brac University in collaboration with BRAC/HCMP organized a training on 'Peace, Social Cohesion and Leadership' with the staff members working on humanitarian response programme in Cox's Bazar. The duration of the training was 6 days from 19th to 24th October 2020.

This training was set out to strengthen the peace-building capacity of humanitarian response personnel working in the Rohingya response programme. It provides activities with competencies and skills they can utilize in peace-building activities in both Rohingya and host communities. By increasing peace-building capacities of Rohingya people the expectation is that their efforts towards peace and social cohesion in both community became more effective and enduring. Acquiring adequate conflict resolution techniques, skills and practical tools will enable both communities, especially Rohingya

community's peace building activities. It will also help to increase the number of peace building actors in respective communities by incorporating them in the process in a more structured and formal manner.

Objective of the course

As discussed above the training programme sets out to strengthen the peace building capacity. In line the with the specific objectives of the training are to provide participants with;

- An awareness of the potential strategic role of the participants as peace promoters
- A space for critical reflection on the concept of peace and peace building
- A better understanding of peace building dynamics and insight in to concept and various approaches to conflict transformation tailored to their specific peace building needs
- Knowledge of practical tools to contribute to the process of conflict responses and peace building activities
- To share examples and lessons from the experiences of peace building actors



Participants

Targeted participants of the training are senior and mid-level staff members from BRAC/HCPM, UNHCR, Action Aid, TAI and Rohingya community. Total 25 participants, 9 female and 16 male attended the course. 12 participants from UNHCR, 4 from TAI, 3 from Action Aid and 6 from BRAC. Two Rohingya participants participated from BRAC. Average age group of the participants were around 25 – 40 years and education level graduate to post graduate.



Topics covered

Several key topics and issues related to peace building and the role of humanitarian response actors were address during each day of the training.

Detailed course content including schedule is attached as Annex-1 with this report.

Methods and materials used



International standard participatory methodology was used during the course of the training. The methodology is highly participatory and assumes all participants were resourceful/ persons who bring their knowledge, experience and skills to bear in the training and group learning process. The focus was on collaboration and learning together while developing and sharpening ideas through collective knowledge and experience. All the tools written in the module are based on participatory adult learning approach which were applied by the trainers. All the proven methods like; story analysis, Quiz, mobile small group, triads, small group works, categorization, card clustering, simulations, large groups, discussions, study circle, question answer etc. were applied for better learning. Learning materials like; stories, quiz score sheet, subject based cards, posters, etc. were used for effective application of methods in different sessions

All most all the methods were applied efficiently with appropriate materials. The participants were enjoyed and highly involved in the learning process, which was also effective in maintaining time and discipline. It also allowed participants to see themselves not only as receivers, but also as direct contributors to the groups learning experiences.

Reading materials

Tailored reading materials were supplied to the participants. Participants found all the reading materials useful, informative and readers friendly.

Management and logistics

- The first venue of the training was not seems to be user-friendly and not clean enough. So that the organizer managed to shifted the training in to another venue within a very short notice. The second venue was good in terms of cleanness and space.
- The training room was equipped with all the necessary equipment.
- Proper hygiene and physical distancing of COVID-19 protocol was highly followed by all participants, trainers and as well as the venue authority.
- Food quality was very satisfactory & dining facilities were decent.



Evaluation, reflections and comments of participants:

All the participants were active and highly involved in the sessions though the schedule was so long and tight. They were spontaneous in debate and discussion as well as to complete the task as per the need of the sessions. There was a scope of day reflections, feedbacks and comments at the end of the day as well as at the end of the course.



(Participants reflection and comments are attached here in this report as Annex-2)

Overall observation and comments

From the beginning to the end of the training, all participants were very much engaged in the sessions. As all the participants have experience in working in humanitarian response programme, there were lots of queries from the participants and also sharing of experiences and knowledge. They found the course very relevant and effective. At the end of the training all participants shared their feelings regarding the training.

Conclusion

Overall the training had tremendous impact on the participants. They expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend the training and shared knowledge & experiences. All the participants were very satisfied about the process, methodology and issues covered. It helped them evaluate where they are and how best to move forward. The participants joyfully expressed that through this training they gained much needed insights and knowledge on peace building and also different methodology & techniques of the training. This training will help them to perform their peace activities at community level even more effective way. They thank BRAC/HCMP and CPJ, BracU for organizing this training.





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