



Inspiring Excellence

Centre for Peace and Justice

Reflections From Ukhiya and Teknaf

Refugee Studies Unit (RSU)

March 2022

Social Cohesion

Locals and Rohingyas share meals

Some NGO workers interacting with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have added a new dimension to the notion of social cohesion between the refugee and host communities. According to reliable sources, many of those working for NGOs that have a presence in Ukhiya and are involved in the refugee response have started having breakfast in Rohingya settlements within refugee camps. Necessity creates opportunities. Hungry NGO workers, seeking a meal, turned to their refugee friends, who also sought the opportunity to earn some money. As a result, Rohingya refugees are often not just cooking for their own families, but also for some NGO workers with whom they share a trust-based relationship.



Policy Developments

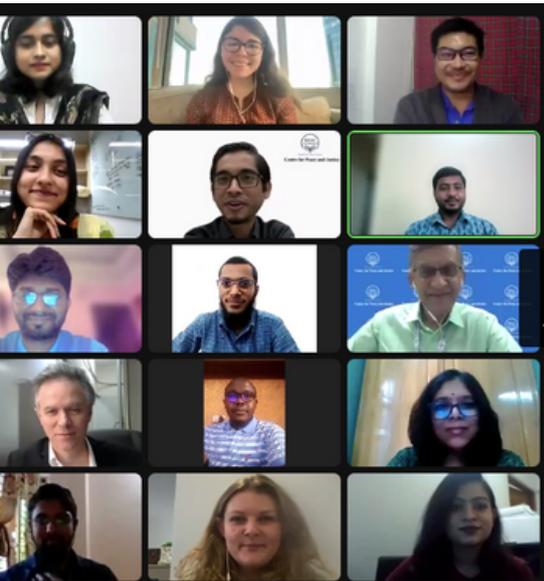
Disappearing Checkposts

Those engaged in the Rohingya refugee response in Ukhiya report a decrease in the number of check posts administered by local security agencies along the approach to the Kutupalong Registered Refugee Camp. In the past, there were a number of check posts run by the Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police and the Ansars. While it remains unclear why this has happened, it is evident that the check posts run by the Army and Police personnel have almost entirely disappeared. However, the BGB check-post still remains.

Needs

Creating a Lost Generation?

In 2020, the Bangladesh Government decided to grant Rohingya children access to education. Unfortunately, while this decision was widely welcomed at the time, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the complete closure of schools across the country. These closures adversely impacted the Bangladesh Government's decision to ensure that Rohingya children would for the first time be able to attend school inside the refugee camps. All educational opportunities for Rohingya children remain closed to this day. Unless immediate steps are taken to address the gaps in their development, these repeated interruptions to Rohingya children being able to go to school will undoubtedly lead to the creation of a 'lost generation'.



New Initiatives

CPI launches Short Course

Between March 12-16, 2022, the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, launched for the first time in its institutional history a Short Course in Refugee Studies. This intensive online course provided those enrolled the opportunity to take deep dives into a myriad of themes pertaining to refugee situations with particular reference to the Rohingya refugee situation in Bangladesh. Many NGO workers based in Ukhiya enrolled and actively participated in the course.

News and Views

5 killed in Ukhiya road accident

At least five people were killed and some other injured in two separate road accidents in Ukhiya. The incidents took place on March 22, 2022, when two trucks, also locally called dumpers, hit two CNG-run autorickshaws near Kutupalong Bazar and Ukhiya Degree College. Locals identified deceased as an autorickshaw driver and a



madrasah student. Eye-witnesses accuse drivers of autorickshaws for such incidents which have become commonplace in Ukhiya. Drivers tend to speed through zones frequented by pedestrians. One such zone is the TV Tower Circle near the MSF Hospital. While dumpers are issued road permits in the form of tokens allegedly issued by the Highway Police, local residents claim that they operate without legal papers and drivers do not have licenses.