

## Education continuity during COVID 19 pandemic situation: experience of Rohingya Response in Cox's Bazar

During COVID-19 pandemic situation government declared education activities, running in the refugee camps as a non-essential service. Therefore, all education activities have been suspended since 17 March 2020. SCI however, has been continuing education through some alternative modalities to recover the losses of children's learning. To avoid any sorts of CORONA related risks, SCI and its partner has been maintaining health-hygiene guidelines e.g. keeping physical distance, hand washing and providing health safety messages to the learners, facilitators and communities. Following are three major modes of alternative education:

### Peer Education Project (PEP):

SCI launched a peer education program in October 2019 for the refugee children who are totally out of education. An elder child from the existing learning center having good cognitive and leadership skills has been chosen to work as peer facilitator while she contacts with 2-3 her peers who have no education background. They sit in a convenient place for two hours, twice in a week and the peer facilitator facilitates learning sessions for her fellow peers. There are 50 such peer groups (3 adolescent girls and one Peer Facilitator in a group)



*Peer Education Session in a house*

covering 150 children. The first cohort of PEP supposed to be ended in May 2020. Due to COVID 19 situation, the cohort has been extended up to September 2020. Although, the Education is a non-essential service in the refugee camps, but SCI is running the PEP in low-key level. The facilitators arrange the session for an hour in a day and once a week. Through this way, the PEP activities are running in the camps despite the COVID-19 lock-down.

### Community based Learning facilities (CBLF):

Community Based Learning Facilities (CBLF) is another alternative education arrangement for the children, where children are unable to attend in center based education facilities. Like many agencies SCI also run a number of CBLF in the camps. Due to the closer, education activities in the CBLF are also suspended. However, SCI and its partner are running CBLF activities forming very small groups (4/5 adolescent girls in a group) with limited scale. The facilitators arrange 4 sessions in a day and each session held for an hour, maintaining physical distance, hand washing and personal safety measures. SCI and partner are providing technical



*A teacher is facilitating a session with small group of children*

support to the teachers remotely through WhatsApp. Bangladeshi host community teachers are not allowed to enter in the camps due to COVID, but refugee teachers are running those sessions, since they are living in the camps.

**Caregivers led education activities in home:**



*A girl child is writing as per the care giver led guideline.*

Considering the Education as a priority, Education Sector of Cox's Bazar developed a guideline on caregiver led education, which helps the parents to take care of their kids. SCI gave an orientation to the partner staff on caregivers led education and distributed the guideline to the Rohingya teachers. The teachers are regularly visiting learners' houses to aware the parents and children on COVID-19 and support them for completing their home tasks.



*A small group learning session in CBLF*



*A refugee teacher taking care of children's education while visiting houses*