

ISSUE: MARCH 2021



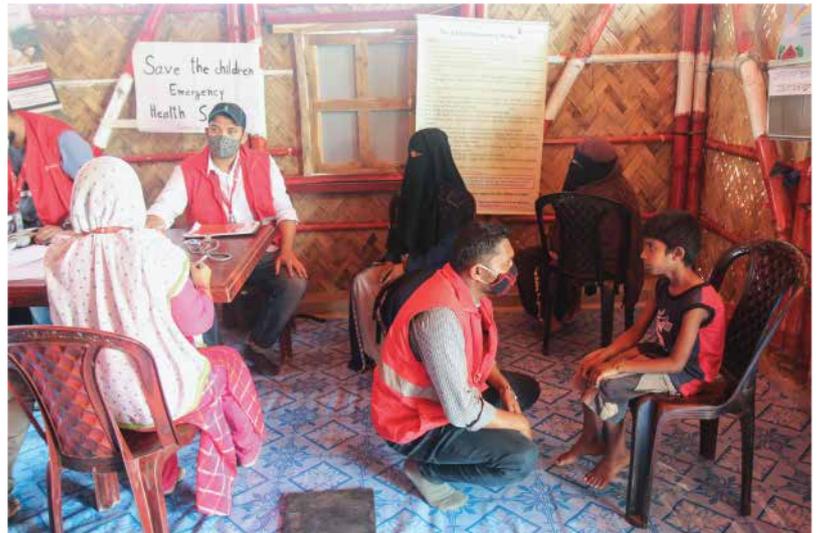
ROHINGYA CAMP FIRE: RESPONDING IN THE FRONTLINE

Photo: Rohim Ullah/ Save the Children

A massive fire broke out in the Rohingya Refugee camps on 22 March 2021. The fire started in camp 8W at around 15:00 and later spread through camps 8E, 9, and 10. The blaze tore through the cramped Cox's Bazar Camps burning thousands of shelters made of highly flammable bamboo and tarpaulin. The flames killed an estimated 11 people and left 50,000 people homeless. Hundreds of people are still reported missing. Save the Children started the response immediately after the incident.



In collaboration with the Government and other actors, we have ensured our active support for food distribution, NFI distribution, shelter restoring, child protection, and mental health support while also facilitating the temporary shelter for the affected families in learning centers. We have restored the emergency health service within 24 hours of the incident. Our family tracking and reunification team has been working closely with camp leaders to locate missing children and has already reunited **289 children** with their families after they were separated by the chaos. We have established **12 temporary safe spaces for children staffed 24-hours a day with trained child protection staff and volunteers** and are providing emergency shelter kits for displaced refugees. We are continuing our regular coordination with the WASH, Health and Nutrition sectors to contribute on a need basis. While the ground response work is going on, at the same time our media engagement work to profile the response and influencing the relevant actors has been going on in full-fledged. We have released a media statement on 22 March immediately after the fire outbreak and another one later. Our statement got 778 hits in the news portals of 36 countries including DW News, BBC, NBC, NPR, Yahoo, MSN, France24, AJ, Guardian, SCMP, Independent, Times of India, etc. Our Country Director and a few other frontline staff have been interviewed live by international media.



“ When the fire broke out behind my house, I grabbed my child and ran for at least a kilometre. I had to leave everything behind and run to save our lives. All my belongings were burnt to ashes. I took shelter later at my brother’s house who lives nearby ”

Tayebe Begum,
A Rohingya volunteer for Save the Children who fled the blaze with her son




Media Link

- Interview of Onno van Manen with-
DW TV from 22 March: <https://share.ard-zdf-box.de/s/MJCJQdZE4kJGBAb>
DW TV from 23 March: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cU3dP6yW3c>
- BBC World Service – Two interviews with Dr. Nabila.
Here’s one: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w172x2z86gqv0ww> from 18:51
- BBC World TV – Interview with Onno van Manen-<https://we.tl/t-3n0RpMWZDg>
- BBC website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-56493708>
- Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/22/bangladesh-fire-rohingya-refugee-camps>
- Reuters - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-rohingya-fire/fire-destroys-thousands-of-homes-in-rohingya-refugee-camps-in-bangladesh-idUSKBN2BE22X>
- Telegraph (UK) - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/23/least-15-dead-400-missing-massive-blaze-sweeps-rohingya-refugee/>



SAFE SCHOOL CAN BE SAFE SHELTER DURING CYCLONE

Save the Children in Bangladesh contributed to modifying two old school buildings to 'School cum Cyclone Shelter' under the "Ashroi Kendra Project" funded by USAID. The first school is 'Baishpari Govt. Primary School cum cyclone shelter' located in Naikkhongchori Upazila, Bandarban. It was handed over to the school authority formally after being repaired and refurbished on 11th Feb 2021. This renovation was funded by USAID's "Ashroi Kendra Project", technical support was provided by Save the Children and was implemented by local partner Green Hill.



Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Mr. Md. Atiqul Huq was the chief guest of the handing over ceremony while Save the Children in Bangladesh's Country Director Onno van Manen and Cox's Bazar Area Director Maheen Chowdhury, Naikkhongchori UNO, Sadia Afrin Kochi, District Primary Education Officer, Md. Shofikul Alam, Upazila Chairman Prof. Md. Shofiqullah were present along with others.

Another School cum Disaster Shelter named DorDori Government Primary School was rebuilt and handed over to the authority on March 9, 2021. In 2013 this school building was declared unsafe by the Local Government Engineering Department and, since then, students and faculty had been entering the building at the risk of injury. The new look of this repaired and refurbished school cum disaster shelter in Lama, excited the local authority.

UPEO, Tapan Kumar Chowdhury, Upazila Vice Chairman of Lama, local (Ruposhi Para) UP Chairman, School Management Committee representatives, social elites and community people attended the handover event.

The Chief Guest, Reza Rashid, UNO (Lama) thanked USAID, Save the Children and Green Hill for the wonderful work that was done and said,

"Children will be happy to see the new look of their school after reopening."

All the guests and dignitaries expressed their gratitude for the quality of work done by the project.



Program Highlights:

- » Onno van Manen, Country Director, SCinBD visited Sponsorship funded Shishuder Jonno (SJ), Urban Impact Area, Dhaka on 10 March. During the visit, he interacted with the colleagues from Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS), the implementing partner organization of SJ, Urban program. He stopped to observe Home-based Pregnant Women counselling, Waste Management initiative, Resource Centre based Early Years Pre-primary (EYPP) session for 3-4 years children and Reading for Children (RfC) session for 6-12 years children. Later, he met with the adolescents, youth group, community leaders and support groups of the urban slum community. He was accompanied by Hosneara Khondker, Program Director, SJ; Munawar Reza Khan, Executive Director-MSS, and respective focal points of Shishuder Jonno Program.





With the aim to develop a debris management strategic planning and city corporation operational plan, Strengthening Urban Resilience Project (SURP), SCinBD arranged a half-day Workshop in Dhaka. Chief town planners of the Dhaka North City Corporation, officials from teams of waste management, health, urban planning, social welfare, transport, and Bangladesh Fire Service Civil Defense were present at the workshop.



The EYE program of FSL/Child Poverty sector organized the last quarterly coordination meeting with senior government officials on 25 February in Khulna. Mr. Zakir Hossain, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as the chief guest. Ms. Bandana Risal, Deputy Country Director, Save the Children; Ms. Tania Sharmin, Sector Director of FSL/Child Poverty Sector and Mr. Kazi Sultan Ahmed, Project Director of ROSC-II TA Project were also present in the meeting. More than 46 thousand urban slum children aged 8-14 years have been brought under primary education in 10 city corporations during the last three years through an accelerated education model termed as "ROSC Education Model". In the community, the school run by the project is popularly known as "Anando School".



Considering the current pandemic and crisis, the newly appointed doctors from 38th BCS (health) received a day-long training session for the COVID-19 pandemic-related. This initiative was led by CDC, DGHS with the support from USAID funded MaMoni Maternal and Newborn Care Strengthening Project: Emergency Response to COVID-19 Pandemic implemented by Save the Children and its partners. A total of 300 doctors went through this day-long training on infection prevention and control, COVID-19 case management, and health management from February 15-17, 2021.



On the last day of the training session, a closing ceremony was hosted with Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Health Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the chief guest.



As part of supporting Government and the stakeholders to get children back to safe schools to continue their education, Strengthening Urban Resilience Project supported by ECHO, SCinBD and its implementing partner CPD in collaboration with Narayanganj DC office arranged a half day-long "Children's Safe back to school: Readiness and Planning workshop" on 18 March. The event-oriented School Management Committees, teachers, and education officers about school reopening guideline by the Government.

**STORY OF
CHANGE**

Meher's Experience: Giving Birth to a Healthy Child in the Rohingya Camp

"I am the first mother in our family who gave birth in a hospital. The way the doctors and nurses took care of me was an amazing experience for me. I now know the difference between giving birth at home and hospital." - Meher

Meher* gave birth to her 5th child in Save the Children's Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) in Teknaf in Rohingya camp. She came to Bangladesh in 2017 during the influx. Previously, she gave birth to her four children in Myanmar. During her pregnancy, she did not receive any maternal health care till this time.

"I had no idea that there is something called maternal health care. In our village we had traditional birth attendants who helped us deliver babies at home." She said.

Meher was found when she was 12 weeks pregnant by one of Save the Children's (SCI) traditional birth attendants (TBA). They told her about the services SCI provides. Meher was impressed to hear about the services as she had never heard about these before, and later came to the PHCC. Since then, she kept visiting PHCC regularly for her anti-natal care and gave birth to a healthy baby there.

The PHCC of Save the Children provides 24/7 health care services both to the host communities and Rohingya refugees in the camps. In PHCC, besides other services, SCI priorities maternal health by ensuring safe motherhood and target to ensure safe delivery facility by skilled health workforce. SCI is working on strengthening, reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by ensuring equitable sexual-reproductive and maternal healthcare.

**Name has been changed due to safeguarding compliance.*



Day Observation: IWD 2021

This International Women’s Day, SCinBD celebrated the power, strength, courage, and leadership of women. We promised to continue to push the boundaries and salute all the beautiful women for their incredible bravery. Country Director Onno van Manen appreciated the contribution of women who work hard every day to achieve personal and professional goals. Later, a small drama was performed by our colleagues on how women face challenges every day at home and the workplace. A cake was also cut to recognize all the strong women’s contribution to SCinBD. Our heartfelt thanks to Rina Akter, who shared her story of determination and courage with us. Rina was honored by the BBC in 100 influential Women 2020 list.



“How a Year of Covid-19 Affected Asia-Pacific Children”

2 PM Bangladesh | 3 PM Cambodia | 4 PM Singapore/China | MARCH 10 Wednesday

COVID-19 has caused an enormous tragedy and disrupted millions of children’s lives in Asia-Pacific. To mark the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Save the Children Asia Regional Office cordially invites you to a panel discussion with experts from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, United Kingdom (UK), and Papua New Guinea to further discuss the impact of school closures and home isolation on Asia-Pacific children’s wellbeing.

PANELISTS

- Liu Ming**
Program Develop. Quality, and Advocacy Director
Save the Children in China
- Gloria Donate**
Director of Strategy, Program Development and Impact
Save the Children in Cambodia
- Reefat bin Sattar**
Programme Development and Quality Director
Save the Children in Bangladesh
- Rosario Sam**
Deputy Country Director
Save the Children Australia
- Karrar Karrar**
Access to Medicines Advisor
Save the Children UK
- Shaheen Chughtai**
Regional Advocacy & Campaign Director, Asia
Save the Children International

MODERATOR

To register: <http://bit.ly/covid1yearwebinar>

Representation

On the first anniversary of the COVID -19 pandemic, the regional brief “Under the Same Sky: How a Year of COVID-19 Affected Asia-Pacific Children” was published on 10 March which included case studies and children’s voices from the Asia-Pacific. From Bangladesh, the story of Tasnim, a student from the northern part was included in the brief. The activity also included a webinar with the experts from around the Asia-Pacific. Reefat Bin Sattar, Director, PDQ, SCinBD joined this webinar and shared his significant expertise regarding the issue.

QUIZ



CHILDREN'S DAY

» When is the Universal Children's Day?

- A** 20 September
- B** 20 November
- C** 20 October
- D** None of this

PHOTO CONTEST



Photo: Ummay Habiba/Save the Children

Send your best capture

Topic: Happy Children
Send the photo, quiz answer
by 20th April.

We will announce the winner
in the next issue of the newsletter.

SEND NOW!

nahin.rahman@savethechildren.org

Send your content for **newsletter**

by 20th April to nahin.rahman@savethechildren.org

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