

Rohingya and Host Community Humanitarian Responses Of ACLAB & Radio Naf 99.2

Rohingya influx is one of the major concerns for Bangladesh. More than 1 million Rohingyas fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh because of ethnic violence in Myanmar. Most of these people are women and children. The people who came from Myanmar are the victims of torture, physical and sexual violence etc. Effects of this Rohingya influx in Bangladesh are severe. On humanitarian ground Bangladesh Government provided shelter and other facilities for these people. But the Government alone cannot handle the situation and therefore welcomed Non-Government Organizations' efforts to support these people. A large number of NGOs and also individuals have been providing relief materials to this displaced population. However, there are still needs of emergency supports.



**ACLAB believes
that we all have
to work
together to
support these
vulnerable
population on
humanitarian
ground.**



After the influx of Rohingyas ACLAB started activities initially through information sharing of local administration initiatives and documentary reports on Rohingyas through its Community Radio Naf 99.2fm. Later on, other programs such as video documentary on the sufferings of Rohingyas, community awareness sessions on the rights of Rohingyas, relief activities, IEC materials development and distribution etc. were initiated. ACLAB incorporated the issue of Rohingyas in its activities of other projects which are implemented in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Chokoria and Pekua Upazilas. ACLAB is also involved in committees and forums formed by international and national organizations for intervention on Rohingyas. Here is a glimpse of activities that have been carried out by ACLAB and Radio Naf 99.2fm:

RADIO PROGRAMS : ACLAB is the initiator of Community Radio Naf 99.2fm. Radio Naf 99.2fm has been producing and broadcasting awareness programs on health, nutrition, water & sanitation, disaster, malaria and HIV/AIDS, STIs, trafficking, cholera and other communicable diseases, victim support programs etc. both for the Rohingyas and the local community people. Radio Naf 99.2fm also disseminates information on government orders and announcements, camp management instructions by the authorities, weather forecasts, environment, various socio-cultural issues etc. The programs are prepared and broadcasted in local languages. UNICEF, UNDP, BBC Media Action, Christian Aid, John Hopkins University, Internews, DW ahkadimea and Bangladesh Betar supported



Broadcasting program in Community Radio Naf99.2 Station

OUTREACH AWARENESS PROGRAMS : ACLAB and Radio Naf99.2fm implementing outreach activities for the Rohingyas as well as for local communities. Activities include orientation for community people on different issues, distribution of radio sets, setting up information booth/hub inside the camps, communication and meeting with stakeholders, communication with camp management authorities, coordination with local administration and camp management authorities, deployment of volunteers for relief distribution and information dissemination, formation of listener groups etc.



Awareness of community people through different ways including radio program, mass gathering and IEC material development

LISTENER GROUP ACTIVITIES: There are a total of 16 listener groups of Radio Naf99.2fm in Rohingya camps. The members of listener groups sit together once per week with Radio Naf99.2fm team. They provide feedback on the broadcasted programs. Radio Naf team exchange information with group members. The group members also share information with community people in their localities. They also act as a source of community resource mobilization. Radio Naf distributes radio sets among the listener group members.



Information dissemination through listener group members

VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES : There are in total 40 trained volunteers who have been actively assisting the camps management authorities as well as host community in the following ways:



Volunteers of Radio Naf99.2fm are involved in different types of activities

- ❖ Biometric registration;
- ❖ Orphan Child registration;
- ❖ Relief distribution;
- ❖ Mobilization of resources;
- ❖ Disseminating activities information;
- ❖ Arrangement of activities;
- ❖ Motivational activities;
- ❖ Communication with leaders and authorities;
- ❖ Mobilization of community people.

CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES : One of the important components of ACLAB's Rohingya intervention is creating Child Friendly Spaces. ACLAB established Child Friendly Spaces in Rohingya Camps which provide opportunities for children with education, play, communication with other children, fun and recreational facilities. ACLAB team organized different types of activities in the child friendly spaces. ACLAB arranged toys, playing materials, education materials, books that are suitable for children. The volunteers responsible for operation of these centers provided with necessary knowledge and orientation on management and protection of children. Child Friendly Spaces are also used for psychosocial counseling.



Different activities are being carried out in Child Friendly Spaces for the Rohingya children and adolescents

INFORMATION BOOTH : The objective of establishing booth in the camps is mainly to provide Rohingyas with information on health, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, weather, government guidelines and announcement etc. Information booths already been established in Kutupalong, Balukali, Thengkali, Leda/Noapara and Jamtoli. Information booths also provide information to Rohingyas, service providers and local management authorities in the camps.



Volunteers at Kutupalong Information Booth



Awareness program being carried out



Orientation for the Majhi (community leader)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES : Activities such as awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS & STIs, Malaria, Nutrition, Cholera vaccination, mother & child care, personal hygiene, human trafficking, social peace and harmony, IEC materials distribution etc. are being carried out by volunteers and ACLAB staffs. Activities also include advocacy meeting, community orientation, community mobilization etc. in the host communities.



Radio Naf99.2fm engaged in different types of community development activities

DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO SETS : Radio set distribution is one of the most important activities of Radio Naf. Radio sets are distributed among the Rohingyas as well as the host community people. Radio set distribution creates habits of listening of Radios among the people. Radio programs are helpful for dissemination of information for knowledge development. So far Radio Naf99.2fm has distributed 300 numbers of radio sets with support of UNICEF. At this moment there is a huge need of radios among the people.



Distribution of Radio sets among the Rohingyas

TREE PLANTATION: In order to protect environment, ACLAB with the technical and financial support of ActionAid Bangladesh has launched tree plantation program of 5000 saplings in Camp sites 11 & 12 at Balukhali Rohingya Camp, Ukhaia by engaging community leaders of Rohingyas.

AIRING MESSAGES ON CHILD SAFETY: With a view to secure child protection of the Rohingya community, ACLAB with the technical and financial support from Plan International Bangladesh has aired Child Protection Messages on Child Marriage, Child Trafficking and Worst Forms of Child Labor through its Community Radio Naf by means of Open discussion, Short Messages, Drama/Skit/Short video, Live question & answer.

COUNSELLING OF GENDERBASED VIOLENCE VICTIMS: During the period ACLAB has provided counseling support to the gender-based violence victims of Rohingya community through communication for communities with the financial support by Christian Aid.

FUTURE PLAN: ACLAB has planned to further strengthen its activities for the Rohingyas and the host community. The future planned activities will include – increase the number of information booths/hubs and child friendly spaces, increase the number of listener groups and volunteers, arrangement of health awareness camps, psychological counseling for the victims, capacity building training for community leaders (called as Majhi) and religious leaders in the camps, awareness raising on environment and DRR, distribution of relief materials, advocacy meeting with host community leaders or stakeholders etc. ACLAB also would like to start multidimensional activities for the Rohingyas and the host community people.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT



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