

Roots of Hope:

Resilience in the Rohingya and Host Community



Roots of Hope:

Resilience in the Rohingya and Host Community

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	03
Noor's Journey to a Healthier Life	04-05
Tofail's Struggle and Hope Amidst Hardship	06-07
Helal Uddin: A Guardian of Green, Nurturing Hope for the Future	08-09
Jannat's Journey from Despair to Dignity through Knitting Knitting Caps Brings Back	10
Self-reliance in Sanowaras Life	11
Cultivating Hope in Kulsum Begum's Life Through Vegetable Farming	12
Jhummy Barua's Resilience Through Goat Rearing	13-14
A Sewing Machine Has Changed Reshmi's Fate	15-16
Building Hope Through Knowledge Family Planning Training Transforms lives in Rohingya Camps	17-18
Vegetable Cultivation Has Brought New Hope in Anwara's Life	19
Weaving Hope: Amena Khatun's Story of Resilience	20
Shaukat Ara: A Journey Towards Health and Dignity	21
Khadija's Journey: Finding Hope Through Support	22
Md. Yunus: Planting Hope for a Greener Future	23
Nurjahan: A Story of Resilience and Renewal	24
Farida Khatun: A Journey from Despair to Hope	25
Hafiza Khatun's Story: A Woman's Struggle and a Beacon of Hope	26
Bristi Shil: A Beacon of Humanity in Balukhali	27-28
Kulsuma's Journey: From Struggle to Success	29
Geeta Sheel-A Beacon of Humanity	30
Nurnahar's Journey: A Struggle Transformed Into Success	31-32
Amena Khatun's Hope Through Weaving Nets	33
Rashida's Story of Hope After Struggle	34
A Glimmer of Light in Shajahan Begum's Struggles	35
Setara's Story with Lifesaving Mosquito Nets	36-37

Preface

In 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas fled violence in Myanmar, seeking refuge in Bangladesh. The scale of their displacement created an urgent need for support, and in response, MISEREOR raised their hands to support the Livelihood Project in Camp 09 of Ukhiya upazila. Through Uttaran Rohingya responses with MISEREOR began in 2018, focusing on empowering Rohingya women. Uttaran trained and provided training toolkits for providing economic support to them. This impactful support allowed these women to become financially empowered, helping their families survive in the camp where other sources of income were scarce.

Uttaran expanded its reach, implementing a larger-scale response in Camp-09, Camp-25, and host communities under the MISEREOR-funded Project. The project saw the establishment of Community Cohesion Centers (CCCs), where women from both the Rohingya and host communities came together to engage in sewing, vegetable cultivation, and social activities. These centers became a beacon of hope, offering training, distributing essential items, and fostering relationships between communities. Awareness sessions on health and child were widely appreciated by both camp and site management, alongside other stakeholders. From 2020 Uttaran started to address COVID 19 issues for these two camps and host community families of Cox's Bazar.

In 2021, Uttaran expanded further to Bhasanchar, offering additional livelihood opportunities such as net weaving, cap making, and batik training. Women also received support through LPG gas, NFI distributions, and tree planting along roadsides. The project's success in improving livelihoods and creating harmony between communities was celebrated by the local administration.

Since 2023, the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project has been working in Camp-09, Camp-25, Teknaf, Bhasanchar and host communities to support vulnerable families. The project provided emergency NFI support, distributing blankets, shawls, floor mats, mosquito nets, thami sets, lungis, and LPG cylinders to thousands of families. It also focused on environmental protection through plastic and polythene cleaning in Camp-09 and tree plantation in Camp-09, Bhasanchar, and the host communities. In terms of livelihood, the project trained women in homestead gardening, fishing net making, cap making, goat rearing, and sewing, equipping them with the necessary materials and support to improve their income. Additionally, food packages were distributed, offering sessions on personal hygiene, family planning, and fostering peaceful relations between the Rohingya and host communities. These combined efforts have significantly enhanced food security, livelihoods, and community unity, contributing to the resilience and self-sufficiency of displaced and host families alike.

Over the years, the MISEREOR-funded project has empowered women, provided critical resources, and transformed lives across Cox's Bazar and Bhashanchar camp. From 2018 to 2024, Uttaran's efforts have made a lasting impact, demonstrating the power of community-driven initiatives in creating sustainable change. This book will showcase success stories from our recent project with Misereor, highlight its ongoing impact in diverse ways, and explore the future direction.



Case

01

Noor's Journey to a Healthier Life

Noor Fatima is an 18-year-old Rohingya national who, along with her family, took refuge in Alikhali Camp 24 of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in 2017. Her FCN number is 105346. Including her father, Salimullah (40), two brothers, and two sisters, there are altogether six members in her family.

In Myanmar, her family endured indescribable torture that forced them to flee their country. Together, they somehow managed to reach Bangladesh by crossing dangerous hilly areas and the Naf river in a boat. Though they escaped the violence in Myanmar, their suffering continued in Bangladesh. With insufficient relief and inadequate living space, they barely survived, living in extreme hardship.

A few days later, unexpected events such as disappearances and killings began occurring inside the camps where they were staying. This made them feel the urge to move elsewhere. In this situation, they heard that the Bangladesh government had arranged accommodations for displaced Rohingyas in Bhasanchar, Noakhali.

In 2023, with new hope, they traveled to Bhasan Char during the sixth transfer, settling in Cluster No. 50, "K" House-1. Life in Bhasan Char was better than in Alikhali Camp, but one of the major problems there was the lack of hygiene and healthcare facilities. Noor suffered from a urinary infection, and many other teenage girls experienced serious health issues.

During this difficult time, it was very challenging for Noor to maintain hygiene-related practices. However, with support from MISEREOR and Uttaran under the project **"Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh,"** girls like Noor learned how to use sanitary pads during menstruation and how often to change them. Noor explained, "Prior to that, I used to keep my private clothes drying in the corner of the room. But after the sessions, I started drying them under direct sunlight, knowing that it helps kill bacteria and other harmful substances."

After learning about menstrual hygiene, Noor

also consulted with the camp doctor and was able to recover from her infection. Today, like many other adolescents in the camp, Noor is leading a healthier life. The sessions greatly benefited her in maintaining good health and hygiene, especially during critical times. She remains deeply grateful and always prays to the Almighty for MISEREOR and Uttaran.

Noor Fatima is an 18-year-old Rohingya national who, along with her family, took refuge in Alikhali Camp 24 of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in 2017. Her FCN number is 105346. Including her father, Salimullah (40), two brothers, and two sisters, there are altogether six members in her family.

In Myanmar, her family endured indescribable torture that forced them to flee their country. Together, they somehow managed to reach Bangladesh by crossing dangerous hilly areas and the Naf River in a boat. Though they escaped the violence in Myanmar, their suffering continued in Bangladesh. With insufficient relief and inadequate living space, they barely survived, living in extreme hardship.

A few days later, unexpected events such as disappearances and killings began occurring inside the camps where they were staying. This made them feel the urge to move elsewhere. In this situation, they heard that the Bangladesh government had arranged accommodations for displaced Rohingyas in Bhasanchar, Noakhali.

In 2023, with new hope, they traveled to Bhasan Char during the sixth transfer, settling in Cluster No. 50, "K" House-1. Life in Bhasan Char was better than in Alikhali Camp, but one of the major problems there was the lack of hygiene and healthcare facilities. Noor suffered from a urinary infection, and many other teenage girls experienced serious health issues.

During this difficult time, it was very challenging for Noor to maintain hygiene-related practices. However, with support from MISEREOR and Uttaran under the project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh," girls like Noor learned how to use sanitary pads during menstruation and how often to change them. Noor explained, "Prior to that, I used to keep my private clothes drying in the corner of the room. But after the sessions, I started drying them under direct sunlight, knowing that it helps kill bacteria and other harmful substances."

After learning about menstrual hygiene, Noor also consulted with the camp doctor and was able to recover from her infection. Today, like many other adolescents in the camp, Noor is leading a healthier life. The sessions greatly benefited her in maintaining good health and hygiene, especially during critical times. She remains deeply grateful and always prays to the almighty for Misereor and Uttaran.





Case

02

Tofail's Struggle and Hope Amidst Hardship

Tofail, 39, was forcibly displaced from Myanmar and now resides as a Rohingya refugee in C-18 Block of Balukhali Camp No. 09, Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh. His FCN number is 114294.

In 2017, Tofail endured extreme torture at the hands of the Myanmar army. As he was preparing to flee to Bangladesh, his house was burned down. In Myanmar, Tofail had owned several cows, goats, and land, but the Myanmar army confiscated everything. Left with no other choice, he sought refuge in Bangladesh with his entire family. At the time of their arrival, Tofail's family consisted of six members—his wife, three sons, and one daughter. After settling in Bangladesh, Tofail's family grew with the birth of another child.

In 2019, Tofail's eldest daughter, Tasmin (18), married Abu Motaleb in G-23 Block of Camp No. 09. However, in a cruel twist of fate, when Tasmin was six months pregnant, her husband left her and migrated to Malaysia. Since then, he has never contacted the family. Left with no other option, Tasmin returned to her father's home while pregnant. A few months after returning, she gave birth to a baby girl.

Tofail was already struggling to make ends meet, and his challenges grew further. In 2021, his eldest son, Mohammad Rafiq, married without his father's knowledge. A year later, Mohammad Rafiq and his wife had a baby girl.

Tofail's family now consists of 10 members: Tofail (38), his wife Sajeda Begum (35),

their eldest son Mohammad Rafiq (19), middle son Mohammad Junayet (12), second son Zubair (10), youngest son Mohammad Rohan, Rafiq's wife, their daughter Zaima (1), and Tasmin's child, Zahid (2).

With such a large family, Tofail faces numerous challenges. He cannot afford medicine for his younger children or daily necessities for the family. The aid provided by NGOs is insufficient to meet their needs. Accommodation is cramped, and food scarcity is a constant issue. Tofail lamented that the support from NGOs in the camp has significantly decreased compared to earlier times. Relief materials are now very limited, and because they cannot earn cash, they are unable to purchase essential items for their daily survival.

Under the project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh," Tofail found a job cleaning waste plastic and polythene inside the camp. This job provided him a way to earn money. Now, he works there and is able to partially meet his family's needs, which is a significant improvement. At least with his earnings, he can afford food, medicine, and other essential items. Reflecting on his situation, he shared, "With such a large family, my life was drowning in an ocean of darkness. This job has been a ray of hope for me."

Through efforts like these, Misereor and Uttaran are working together to restore hope and self-reliance in the lives of vulnerable Rohingya families, making them more self-sufficient.





Case

03

Helal Uddin: A Guardian of Green, Nurturing Hope for the Future

Helal Uddin, a resident of Ward No. 7 in Uttar Ali Khali village of Hnila Union No. 2, is a man with an extraordinary love for trees. Often referred to as a "tree lover," his deep passion for nature is evident in his relentless dedication to preserving and nurturing greenery in his village.

Helal's contribution to the roadside tree plantation program, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran, is nothing short of remarkable. Volunteering with an unparalleled sense of responsibility, he has taken the care of each tree under his supervision as a personal mission. For six months, he has been tending to these trees with the same love and attention one might give to their children. His efforts are supported by a monthly stipend of 8,000 taka from Uttaran, a small recognition of his significant labor. Under Helal's careful supervision, the trees

have flourished, symbolizing growth, resilience, and hope. "These trees play a vital role in maintaining environmental balance," Helal explains. "In a disaster-prone area like ours, they will provide not only environmental benefits but also shade, homes for birds, and beauty to the landscape. The sound of birds chirping and the sight of these thriving trees will make our village a better place."

Helal envisions a future where the trees he nurtures become an integral part of the village's ecosystem. "This village belongs to me, and these trees are my responsibility," he says with pride. He sees their growth as a direct benefit to the people and the environment of his community, providing shade for travelers, homes for birds, and protection against natural calamities.

For Helal, trees are not just inanimate

objects; they are living beings with their own essence. "They may not speak, but they have life. They can hear and feel," he says with heartfelt conviction. His perspective is a poignant reminder of the profound relationship humans share with nature.

Through his dedication, Helal Uddin exemplifies how one person's commitment can inspire an entire community to appreciate the

environment. His work under the Uttaran program, funded by Misereor, is a testament to how such initiatives can empower individuals to become agents of positive change. Helal's story is not just about planting trees—it's about planting hope, nurturing dreams, and safeguarding the future for generations to come.





Case

04

Jannat's Journey from Despair to Dignity through Knitting

Jannat-ara Begum lives in Balukhali Camp No. 09 of Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar, with her 70-year-old mother, Nur Jahan Begum. In the camp, her life was full of uncertainty and misery as she lacked enough food and living space. With the small grant and relief she received, she could barely make ends meet.

Once, life was not that cruel for her. In Myanmar, Jannat had a happy family of four, including her husband, Nur Kabir, and her parents-in-law. But things changed unimaginably in 2017 when her father-in-law died of an unknown disease, and her husband was shot to death by the Mogh forces. Helpless, Jannat returned to her mother's place and fled from Myanmar that year with her.

Due to the hardship of the perilous journey and the lack of a decent lifestyle in the camp, her mother's health condition soon deteriorated. With her sick mother, Jannat's life became more challenging. She was so helpless that she could not even afford medication for her mother, as she lacked any source of income.

At that harsh moment, Misereor's "Livelihood

Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh" project appeared as a ray of hope in her life. With the assistance of Uttaran, Jannat received 30 days of training in knitting caps under this project. After completing the training, the project also provided her with all the necessary materials for knitting.

Receiving these, Jannat committed herself to knitting caps and earning money for her family. Nowadays, she earns 5,000–6,000 taka per month by selling these caps. This has provided her with a permanent source of income. Now, she can buy medicine and nutritious food for her mother and manage other daily necessities. She is immensely happy and expressed her endless gratitude, stating, "With my elderly mother, I was in immense pain. Fortunately, I got the opportunity to learn knitting!"

Through this project, Misereor and Uttaran aimed to support helpless Rohingya families, helping them become self-reliant and contributing to restoring dignity in their lives.



Case

05

Knitting Caps Brings Back Self-reliance in Sanowara's Life

Sanowara Begum (27) is one of the 10 million Rohingyas who barely escaped with their lives from Myanmar in 2017. She, along with her husband, Najim Hossain (35), two sons, and a daughter, took refuge in the Kutupalong Camp, 8W "A" 66 Block of Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar. Her FCN number is 294254.

In the camp, her miseries and suffering knew no bounds. She could not find any work to earn money. With the small relief offered by various organizations, her family struggled to survive. During that time, she was informed about Bhasan Char, where better accommodation had been arranged for the Rohingyas. With new hopes, she and her family arrived there in 2022. In Bhasanchar, she found better living space and some working opportunities. Her husband occasionally got jobs as a day laborer. However, financial challenges persisted in her life. At that moment, Misereor came forward with an opportunity for training in knitting caps under

their project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh." This project was implemented by Uttaran.

Under this project, Sanowara received 30 days of training and was provided with the necessary materials for knitting. After completing the training and receiving the equipment, Sanowara started knitting caps. So far, she has made a profit of 1,000 taka by selling caps in a month. This has, to some extent, enabled her to arrange nutritious food for her children and manage other essential items.

With tears of joy, she said, "Without this help, my family would have been lost in uncertainty and constantly faced shortages in our daily survival. Additionally, I have gained a new skill that I can use for my family." She thanked both organizations from the bottom of her heart and expressed her deep gratitude.



Case

06

Cultivating Hope in Kulsum Begum's Life Through Vegetable Farming

Kulsum Begum (36) is a resident of Hajempara village in Rajapalong Union, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. There, she has a large family of eight members, consisting of her husband, three sons, and three daughters. Her husband, Ershadul Haque (50), has been suffering from asthma for a long time. All six of her children are in school. With six children to educate and an ailing husband to care for, Kulsum Begum faced a truly challenging time. It became nearly impossible for her to afford her children's education and buy medicine for her sick husband.

Thinking about the family's dire situation, Ershad couldn't sit idly. Whenever he felt a bit better, he rented an engine rickshaw from a garage and tried to earn some money. However, this income was not enough to sustain their large family of eight. The constant worries about financial struggles and uncertainties weighed heavily on Kulsum Begum. Yet, she did not fall apart. She tirelessly worked as a day laborer and also worked in other people's homes to keep her family afloat. Her family struggled with both accommodation and food. Due to financial constraints, her children's education was also at risk of being disrupted.

Through the "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh" project, funded by MISEREOR and implemented by Uttaran, Kulsum Begum received a seven-day training on vegetable farming in her yard. She was not only trained but also provided with seeds and other materials for vegetable farming during the post-training period. This brought hope to her life. Now, she is devoted to growing vegetables in her yard. The vegetables she produces not only meet her family's needs but also allow her to earn 200–250 taka per day by selling them in the market.

Kulsum says, "Now I can buy school supplies for my children and medicine for my husband. My household is now in a much better state than before." She also added that she always prays to God for the donor Misereor and the implementing organization Uttaran for their support to a helpless woman like her. Like Kulsum, thousands of helpless women have found alternative sources of income in their lives through the support of Misereor and Uttaran.

Host Communities in Bangladesh" project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran. She was also given a goat during the post-training period, which brought immense joy to her family. Three months later, the goat gave birth to two calves.

Now, Jhummy dreams of raising more goats and starting a small goat farm of her own so

that she can sell one or two goats during difficult times to support her household expenses. She says, "This is the first time I've received such help from an organization like Uttaran in my life. I pray to Allah and express my gratitude to Misereor, the funding organization, and Uttaran, the implementing organization, for their help."





Case

08

A Sewing Machine Has Changed Reshmi's Fate

Reshmi Sheel is a nineteen-year-old girl who lives in the Hindu Para village of Ward No. 1, Palongkhali Union, Cox's Bazar. With her father Bikash Sheel (55), mother Shivurani Sheel (40), grandmother Gita Sheel (72), and two sisters Promi (16) and Piu (10) she has a family of 6 members. Despite facing numerous challenges, Reshmi continues her education and has attended the Higher secondary exams this year. Both her sisters are also studying, with Promi in the tenth grade and Piu in the fourth.

However, life has been difficult for Reshmi and her family. Her grandmother has been bedridden after suffering two strokes, and

her father has been struggling with piles and fistula for the past 20 years. Her mother works as a day laborer despite suffering from serious back pain. But her income was never enough to meet the family's needs. As the eldest child, Reshmi was always worried about her sisters' education, the medical expenses of her ailing grandmother, father along with the daily household expenses. Poverty was a constant phenomenon for Reshmi's family. Even with loans, they could barely manage three meals a day.

However, things have taken a turn for the better. Through the "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in



Case

07

Jhummy Barua's Resilience Through Goat Rearing

Jhummy Barua is a 46-year-old woman who lives in a small hut in Pinakpara village, Ward No. 09, Rajapalong Union, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. With two daughters and twin sons, she has a family of five members. Nine years ago, her husband divorced her. Since then, she has endured immense suffering and endless challenges in her life. With no other option, Jhummy returned to her father's house for shelter. However, even there, peace eluded her. She managed to build a small hut in a corner of her father's land and struggled to survive with her four children.

Due to financial constraints, her eldest daughter, Minu Barua (18), and her younger daughter, Sejuti, had to stop their education

after completing the 10th and 4th grades, respectively. Now, they both work as domestic laborers in other people's homes. Jhummy's twin sons, Saikat and Sagar (12), work for minimal wages in a tea shop.

Jhummy herself works as a day laborer, but the meager earnings from all of them could barely sustain the family. She had dreams of educating her children, but her family didn't receive any government aid. Jhummy works tirelessly to provide just enough food for two meals a day for her family.

At this critical time, Jhummy received 10 days of training on goat rearing through the "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and

Bangladesh” program, by Misereor and Uttaran, Reshmi received a 30-day training on sewing. She was also provided with a sewing machine and some fabrics. Since then, she did not have to look back.

Now, Reshmi can earn between 500 and 600 BDT daily through her sewing work. This income allows her to purchase medicine for her sick grandmother, father and to cover

the educational expenses for herself and her sisters. When she reflects on the past, she still feels the pain of those uncertain days. She says, “There was so much uncertainty in our lives. Today, with the help of the NGOs, our lives have completely changed.” Reshmi can now focus on her college studies and ensure that her sisters continue their education. She feels herself very lucky to be able to support her family.





Case

09

Building Hope Through Knowledge Family Planning Training Transforms lives in Rohingya Camps

In Ukhiya Camp, Rohingyas live in highly congested areas, with each family comprising approximately five members. and the birth rate remains as high as before. Despite having no income and a lack of earning opportunities, it is always tough to sustain a larger family. This has led to multiple marriages, divorces, violence against women (VAW), and other problems within the camps.

Though life improved slightly for the Rohingyas, challenges persisted. Among the many problems in the camp, one major concern was the lack of adequate knowledge and resources related to family planning and birth control. Uncontrolled and unintended pregnancies led to various reproductive health complications among women and

increased family sizes, further exacerbating poverty and suffering.

Under the project “Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh,” funded and implemented consecutively by Misereor and Uttaran, a 10-day training session was organized on family planning, birth control awareness, and available resources.

Mokarrama Begum is 28 years old. She has a family of four members, including her husband, Dil Muhammad (35), a daughter, and a son. Her FCN number is 140287. The Myanmar army severely persecuted her family, forcing them to flee the country in 2017. They endured many hardships as they

crossed various mountains and, finally, through Naikhongchari, managed to enter Bangladesh, taking refuge in Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. Life in the camp was full of miseries. The limited relief and allocations they received were not enough for them.

When they learned about Bhasanchar, where better accommodation was arranged for Rohingyas, they found renewed hope. In 2023, they reached Bhasanchar through the 5th trip. There, they were allocated accommodation in Cluster 61, House "G," Rooms 15 and 16.

At that critical moment, under the project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh," Mokarrama attended sessions on family planning and birth control. Enlightened by those sessions, she adopted a birth control injection from a nearby 20-bed hospital, which will protect

her from pregnancy for the next three years. Now, she actively advocates for and educates other Rohingya women in her camp about these issues, focusing on raising awareness among them. With the camp being congested and overpopulation creating significant difficulties for families like Mokarrama's, her efforts have become crucial.

For the last four years, since arriving in Bangladesh, work opportunities for this population have been scarce, with most families surviving solely on aid items from various organizations. Despite these challenges, Mokarrama shared, "Among many hardships, now my husband and I are at least leading a happier conjugal life. With this knowledge, I believe the men in our community will become more aware and stop divorcing their wives so frequently." She expressed her gratitude to both organizations for their support.





Case

10

Vegetable Cultivation Has Brought New Hope in Anwara's Life

Anwara Begum (36) is one of those Rohingyas who had to flee Myanmar along with their families escaping the casualties of Arakan Army in 2017. There are 8 members in her family which includes her husband Abu Sayed (45), their 3 sons and 3 daughters. Crossing dangerous hill tracts, she and her family somehow reached the bank of Naf river. A sailor there, in exchange of the few golden jewellery of Anwara, helped them cross the river and reach Bangladesh. There they took refuge in Kutupalong camp 1, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. In the camp Anwara and her family lacked enough food and living space. Besides, they didn't find any work to earn money. Therefore, they had been passing their days indulged in depression and worries. The small grants they used to receive could barely make their ends met. Soon mob and violence started to arise inside the camp making it further inhabitable for them. At that time, Anwara and her family got to know about Bhasanchar, where accommodation was arranged for the Rohingyas. In 2021, boarding on the 1st tip they reached Bhasanchar and got allotment in Cluster 7, room "K" House-3,4,7.

There her husband got the job of a day laborer. Besides, they received few grants from various organizations. But these grants and little income was not enough for running the family smoothly. At that time under the project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh" funded and implemented respectively by Misereor and Uttaran Anwara received training regarding vegetable cultivation. She also received seed, fertilizer and necessary tools. Receiving training and necessary stuff, Anwara started to work heart and soul on cultivating vegetables in her backyard. Soon she succeeded. Now she's cultivating various vegetables which is not only meeting the need of her family but also allowing her to earn money by selling the surplus production.

Anwara expressed her immense gratitude and thanked both the organizations for the support they provided her with. Today with the support of Uttaran and Misereor many helpless Rohingyas like Anwara Begum have found new hopes in their lives.



Case

11

Amena Khatun's Hope Through Weaving Nets

Amena Khatun's face lights up with gratitude as she weaves fishing nets—a skill that has transformed her life.

At 45 years old, Amena and her family were forcibly displaced from Myanmar in 2017 by the military, seeking refuge in Balukhali Camp No. 09, Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh. She and her family of 10, including her husband, five sons, two daughters, and her eldest son's wife, now reside in Block C-16-Bø. Life as a Rohingya refugee has been anything but easy.

For Amena, the challenges are immense. Her husband, Anwar Shaha, suffers from chronic illness, requiring expensive medication they can barely afford. The aid they receive from NGOs is insufficient for such a large household, and Amena struggled to find work to support her family.

But hope arrived through the "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh" project, funded by Misereor

and implemented by Uttaran. Amena participated in a 30-day net-weaving training program provided by Uttaran. Not only did she acquire new skills, but she also received the materials needed to start her own net-weaving work.

"Now, I weave nets every day," Amena shares with a smile. "It takes me 1 to 2 months to complete one net, which I sell for 2,000 to 3,000 taka. With this income, I can buy medicines and nutritious food for my husband. My family is in a much better position than before."

Amena's story is one of resilience and gratitude. She expresses her heartfelt thanks to Misereor and Uttaran for their support. "Every time I complete a net, I thank God for the donors and implementing organization for helping us rebuild our lives."

Through her determination and the generosity of these initiatives, Amena Khatun is weaving more than just nets—she is weaving a future for her family.



Case

12

Shaukat Ara: Restoring Health and Dignity

Shaukat Ara, an 18-year-old girl with a quiet resilience, has endured hardships most cannot imagine. Orphaned at a young age after the death of her parents, she fled Myanmar in 2017 with her elder brother, Abdur Rahim (23), and younger sister (15). Together, they crossed rugged mountains and the Naf River, finally seeking refuge in Block A-5 of Camp 09, Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh.

Life in the camp was marked by struggle. With no stable support system, the siblings lived in a small space, relying on sporadic help from NGOs to survive. For Shaukat, the challenges of adolescence were even more daunting due to a lack of awareness about basic health and self-care during puberty. Frequent illnesses disrupted her already fragile life, leaving her feeling vulnerable and isolated.

In 2024, hope arrived through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran. Through the Community Cohesion Center, Shaukat

attended sessions focused on self-care and adolescent health.

"For the first time, I learned how to take care of myself during menstruation and maintain personal hygiene," Shaukat shares. "Now, I know how important it is to wash my hands regularly, cut my nails, and keep my surroundings clean."

The lessons transformed her life. Illnesses that once plagued her are now rare, and Shaukat has become an advocate for health and hygiene in her community. "I share what I've learned with my neighbors, helping other girls understand the importance of self-care during puberty," she says with pride.

Shaukat's story is a testament to the power of education and compassion. Her gratitude shines through as she reflects on the support she received: "I am deeply thankful to the donor organization Misereor and Uttaran for empowering girls like me to lead healthier, more dignified lives."

Through the efforts of this initiative, Shaukat is not only overcoming her own challenges but is also inspiring others to build healthier futures.



Case

13

Khadija's Journey: Finding Hope Through Support

Khadija Begum, a 30-year-old Rohingya woman with FCN number 172035, lives with her husband Rafiq (36) and their large family, which includes five sons, two daughters, and one child with disabilities. Their lives have been a relentless struggle for survival since being forcibly displaced from Myanmar in 2017.

After enduring the trauma of deportation, Khadija and her family found refuge in the Thankhali camp in Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar district. Life in the camp was harsh and unforgiving. With no consistent source of help, they often went days without food, relying on the goodwill of local fishermen and sporadic support from NGOs.

In 2021, Khadija heard of better living arrangements in Bhasanchar for displaced Myanmar citizens. Seeking a chance at stability, her family moved there, settling in Room 15, 16 of "C" House, Cluster 07. Although her husband works as a daily wage laborer, his income barely covers their basic needs, leaving the family in perpetual hardship.

By 2024, their struggles persisted. Khadija's

husband, unable to afford new clothes, often wore torn garments, and the family's limited resources made it impossible to provide adequately for everyone. A ray of hope appeared when Khadija's family received Non-Food Items (NFI), including Lungi and Thami, through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran.

"For us, these items are more than just clothing," Khadija shared with gratitude. "They bring relief and dignity to my husband and our family. We are so happy to have this support."

Khadija's joy was palpable as she prayed for the donors and implementing organization, thanking them for their kindness and commitment to improving the lives of displaced families like hers.

Her story is a poignant reminder of the resilience of those who have lost everything and the profound impact of thoughtful humanitarian aid.



Case

14

Md. Yunus: Planting Hope for a Greener Future

Md. Yunus, a 32-year-old Rohingya refugee with FCN number 110907, lives with his father, Abdur Rashid (67), his wife, and their young son. In 2017, he and his family were forced to flee Myanmar after enduring severe persecution. Their journey was perilous, involving treacherous mountain crossings before they finally found refuge in Room F-10 of Balukhali Camp 9, Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh.

Life in the camp was fraught with hardship. The family struggled daily, relying on sporadic support from NGOs for survival. During this time, Yunus attended a meeting organized by the CIC (Camp-in-Charge) for individuals with basic education. He was selected to serve as a "boatman," tasked with helping distribute aid and resources from various organizations. However, his new role also brought risks, as he faced threats from the Alikin force during his duties.

In 2022, Yunus learned about improved living arrangements for displaced Myanmar citizens in Bhasanchar. Seeking safety and stability, he moved with his family to Room 7, 8 of "C" House, Cluster 8, on the island. There, he was entrusted with the role of Cluster Focal, a position that allowed him to contribute further to his community.

By 2024, with support from various NGOs and environmental initiatives, Bhasanchar saw a tree plantation drive through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran. Yunus actively participated in planting fruit trees and medicinal plants, recognizing the importance of these efforts for the environment and the community.

"Bhasanchar is a small island with a large population, so planting trees is essential to maintaining environmental balance," Yunus explained while planting saplings. "We are especially happy to plant fruit trees because our children will benefit from the fruits in the future."

Yunus expressed his gratitude to the donor and implementing organizations for their thoughtful initiative, praying for their continued success. "Many people will benefit from this project in the years to come," he added with hope.

Through his dedication and the support of impactful projects, Yunus is not only creating a greener environment but also sowing seeds of hope for a brighter future for his family and community.



Case

15

Nurjahan's story of Resilience and renewal

Nurjahan's life was once filled with love and happiness. Living in Ward No. 7 of Teknaf, in the small village of North Alikhali, Cox's Bazar, she and her husband, Amin Sharif, built a life together with their six family members. Their bond was strong, and their home was filled with warmth and joy.

But fate had other plans. Nurjahan's world turned upside down when her husband was diagnosed with cancer. For twelve agonizing years, they fought the disease together, but in the end, Amin succumbed to it, leaving Nurjahan to shoulder the burdens of life alone.

Her struggles as a widow began in earnest. Tragedy struck again when her eldest son died of liver problems. Another son, in desperation, embarked on a perilous journey to Malaysia by river, but he never returned. Adding to her hardship, her widowed daughter, with three young children, sought refuge in Nurjahan's already strained household.

Despite these overwhelming challenges, Nurjahan refused to succumb to despair. She worked tirelessly as a daily wage laborer and took on housework wherever she could find it. Yet, jobs were scarce, and she often managed to feed her family only once every three days. The days were long and filled with hardship, but Nurjahan's determination

never wavered.

One day, she heard about a goat-rearing training program implemented by Uttaran. Seeing an opportunity to change her life, she enrolled in the month-long training. Upon completion, she received a female goat from the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran.

This goat became a beacon of hope for Nurjahan. For the first time in years, her face lit up with a genuine smile. She cared for the goat as if it were her own child, dreaming of the day it would give birth. She envisioned a future where she could sell the goats, buy a cow, or repair her dilapidated house.

"This goat has brought a new light into my life," Nurjahan shared with gratitude. She expressed heartfelt thanks to Uttaran for their support, recognizing that this small act of assistance had become the foundation for her renewed dreams.

Nurjahan's story is a testament to the power of resilience and determination. Despite unimaginable losses, she found the strength to rebuild her life, proving that even in the darkest moments, hope can emerge, and new opportunities can lead to a brighter future.



Case

16

Farida Khatun's Path from Despair to Hope

Farida Khatun, a resilient widow from Alikhali village (Ward No. 7), Hnila, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, lives with her family of five. Her household includes her elderly mother, her son, her son's wife, and two grandsons—one of whom is a four-year-old child with a disability.

Life has been a relentless struggle for Farida. Since the death of her husband, Tayeb, from a tumor 12 years ago, she has borne the weight of supporting her family. Without any stable source of income, Farida has been forced to rely on begging and working in others' homes. Her only son works as a daily wage laborer, but his work is seasonal, leaving him unemployed for half the year.

The lack of resources, combined with the challenges of caring for her family, has plunged Farida into despair. There were days when food was scarce, and her family faced the harsh realities of poverty. "My life was filled with hopelessness," Farida recalls. "I constantly fought with death to survive." Amidst this struggle, Farida's life took a turn when she received training in goat rearing through Uttaran NGO. While she already had

basic knowledge of goat rearing, the training provided her with advanced techniques to improve her skills. Soon after, she was given a female goat through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran.

Receiving the goat was a turning point for Farida. "This goat has brought hope into my life," she says with gratitude. With the skills she gained from the training, Farida raised the goat, and it eventually gave birth to kids. She now nurtures the goats and plans to sell the offspring in the market, using the earnings to buy more goats and sustain her family.

"This goat has turned my despair into hope. I am now dreaming of a new life," Farida shares. Her heartfelt thanks go to Uttaran for standing by her side in her darkest moments.

Farida Khatun's story is a testament to resilience and the transformative power of opportunity. With the support of Uttaran, she has found not only a means to survive but also the courage to dream of a brighter future for herself and her family.



Case

17

Hafiza Khatun's Story: A Woman's Struggle and a Beacon of Hope

Hafiza Khatun, a 60-year-old woman from Camp No. 25 in Alikhali, Teknaf, had her life irrevocably altered when she was forced to flee Myanmar in 2017. Alongside her husband, she sought refuge in Bangladesh, leaving behind everything she once knew. Life as a refugee was already challenging, but in 2023, tragedy struck again—her husband succumbed to asthma, leaving Hafiza widowed and vulnerable.

Hafiza's small family includes her only son, his wife, and her young grandson. Her son, without a steady job, works whatever temporary labor he can find to support the family. However, his meager earnings are barely enough to meet their basic needs. Hafiza, suffering from the ailments of old age, hesitates to voice her own needs, feeling shy and burdened by the knowledge that everyone around her is struggling too.

As the cold winter months set in, Hafiza found herself in dire straits, lacking adequate clothing to protect against the chill. It was during this difficult time that a glimmer of hope entered

her life. Through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran, Hafiza received much-needed support. On January 14, 2024, she was given two thami sets and a lungi.

For Hafiza, these items were more than just clothing—they symbolized care, humanity, and a renewed sense of hope. Her face brightened with gratitude as she called the gifts “a blessing from God.” Reflecting on the support she received, Hafiza said, “Uttaran NGO has helped me in this difficult time. I am eternally grateful. My gratitude to God and Uttaran NGO is endless.”

Hafiza Khatun's story is one of resilience, hardship, and hope. It demonstrates the profound impact of Misereor's funding and Uttaran's implementation, showing how even modest interventions can bring light into the darkest of circumstances. Hafiza's journey is a poignant reminder of the transformative power of compassion and the indomitable strength of the human spirit.



Case

18

Bristi Shil: A Beacon of Humanity in Balukhali

Bristi Shil, a 20-year-old from West Hindu Para in Ward No. 1 of Balukhali village, has become a shining example of compassion and unity. Married to Chandan Shil, a 28-year-old salon worker, she balances her life as a homemaker and a dedicated humanitarian. Bristi's family includes her father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and her young son, making it a household of six. Despite the financial challenges her husband's modest income brings, Bristi finds purpose in helping others. Since her childhood, Bristi has been driven by a deep desire to support the helpless, a value instilled in her by her family. Her altruistic nature has earned her respect and love from her family and neighbors alike.

In 2017, when the Rohingya community fled

Myanmar to escape persecution, Bristi stepped up with open arms. With her in-laws' and husband's permission, she offered shelter to many Rohingya families in their home, moved by their dire circumstances. However, as the years passed, tensions began to rise between the local population and the growing Rohingya community.

Recognizing the need for harmony, Bristi became actively involved in the Community Cohesion Center, implemented by Uttaran and funded by Misereor. In 2021, she participated in awareness sessions aimed at fostering friendships between the local community and the Rohingya. The sessions also addressed critical issues like family planning and personal healthcare for young women.

Bristi shared, "Of all the awareness sessions, the ones on strengthening friendships between the local community and the Rohingya are my favorite. These sessions have greatly improved relationships and brought peace to our area."

Her commitment to humanitarian efforts became even more evident in 2022, when a fire broke out in Camp No. 09. Bristi personally went to the affected area, inviting families displaced by the fire to take refuge in her home. She cooked khichuri for them, ensured everyone had enough to eat, and even arranged for an elderly girl to stay in her own room that night.

Reflecting on her experiences, Bristi expressed immense gratitude for the Community Cohesion Center, describing it as "a torch of knowledge, showing the path to light." She emphasized that the sessions

have taught her and others the value of unity, compassion, and non-violence. "Violence, hatred, and fighting can never make life beautiful or happy," she said.

Thanks to these efforts, the community has seen a transformation. Locals and Rohingya now live side by side, supporting one another in times of need. Bristi credits the sessions for reducing animosity and increasing understanding, love, and mutual respect between the two communities.

As she continues her journey, Bristi remains a beacon of hope and humanity, inspiring others to embrace kindness and build bridges of friendship. She expressed her gratitude to Uttaran and Misereor for their unwavering support and urged others to follow her lead in fostering love and understanding toward the Rohingya community.





Case

19

Kulsuma's Journey: From Struggle to Success

Kulsuma's life is a testament to resilience and determination. Growing up in Ward No. 7 of Teknaf Upazila in Uttar Ali Khali, Hnila Union, a small village, her journey was anything but easy. Her father, Iman Sharif, passed away when she was just 13 years old, leaving her family of ten siblings in dire circumstances. As the fourth child, Kulsuma had to bear the weight of her family's struggles.

Though she studied up to the ninth grade, her education was cut short due to the responsibilities of supporting her large family. Her mother, Mahmuda Khatun, became stricter under the burden of poverty, and life for Kulsuma grew increasingly difficult. However, Kulsuma's spirit remained unbroken. She realized she had to step up to help her family survive.

With the guidance of a supportive cousin, Kulsuma began knitting hats, which provided a modest income. While this helped ease some of the family's financial strain, she continued searching for ways to do more.

Then, Uttaran, through its community support programs, provided Kulsuma with sewing training, along with a sewing machine and

essential materials. Equipped with these tools and skills, Kulsuma began sewing at home, creating small and large garments to sell in the local market. Her work soon gained recognition, and her income steadily increased. Encouraged by her success, she expanded her efforts by collaborating with her cousin to take on various household tasks in the village.

Over time, Kulsuma's reputation as a skilled seamstress grew. Now, she has ambitious plans to partner with local tailors to start a larger tailoring business. Her journey from hardship to stability has not only uplifted her family but has also inspired others in her community.

Reflecting on her transformation, Kulsuma expressed heartfelt gratitude to Uttaran for their support. "Every step of my life has been a struggle, but courage and hard work have brought me to where I am today," she said.

Kulsuma's story is not just her own—it represents the countless women who face immense challenges yet find ways to overcome them with determination and perseverance. Her journey is a powerful reminder that even in the face of adversity, success is possible with the right opportunities and unwavering resolve.



Case

20

Geeta Sheel-A Beacon of Humanity

Geeta Sheel (50) is a resident of the west hindu neighbourhood of Ward no.1 Balukhali village. There she lives with her family of 6 members. Geeta's husband Kajal Sheel(60) and son work as day laborers in a shop. They can fairly make their ends met. Geeta is an ideal housewife and has been very humanitarian since her childhood. She has always stood beside helpless people. Because of her kindness, her acceptance is much higher to the members of her community. In 2017, when mass Rohingya influx happened, Geeta did not step back standing next to those helpless Rohingyas who fled from Myanmar escaping the genocide of the Janta Army and Mogh forces. Infact, she gave shelter to many helpless Rohingyas in her house.

But as the situation got protracted, conflict between Rohingyas and the local people slowly started to arise. Establishing cohesion between the two communities became necessary. In that very moment, with the funding of Misereor and assistance of Uttaran Community Cohesion Centre was introduced in the camps. Through the center, sessions on family planning, personal healthcare for young women and strengthening friendship between the local community and the Rohingya were conducted.

Since 2021, Geeta has been engaged to the sessions in camp 9. She continues to support the Rohingya community however she can. In

2022, when a fire erupted in Camp No. 09, Geeta immediately visited the spot, opened her home to the affected families. She even offered food and her room for the elderly girls to stay in that night. After the sessions and being inspired by Geeta, many other local people have also expanded their hands of support to the Rohingyas. Geeta mentioned that numerous awareness events take place at the sessions among which the initiative to foster friendship between the locals and the Rohingya community is her most favorite. She pointed out that this effort has greatly enhanced the relationship between the two communities. Geeta said, "Since the centre was established, peace has been restored in this area." She emphasized that the center serves as a guiding light for important discussions. Recently, the Centre hosted a friendship session that united individuals from both communities. During this gathering, participants explored the fundamental values of life. They discovered the value of harmony and mutual respect. This has helped them respect each other.

Today, the two communities coexist peacefully. They stand by each other during difficult times, sharing both happiness and sorrow. Geeta expressed her appreciation for Uttaran and Misereor for their initiative. She believes that, such programs will bring about greater good for people in the upcoming days.



Case

21

A Struggle Transformed Into Success

Nurnahar, a resilient woman from Ward No. 7 of Hnila Union in Teknaf, embodies the strength and determination of countless individuals who face daily hardships. Her life story is one of continuous struggle, where each day presents a new challenge for her and her family of seven. Her household consists of herself, her husband, two sons, and three daughters. For Nurnahar, sustaining her family has always been a monumental task.

Her eldest son, Shahinur, is the sole breadwinner, earning a living by driving a rented auto. However, despite his best efforts, the income he brings in is not enough to cover the basic needs of the family. To make ends meet, Nurnahar and her husband began cultivating vegetables in their small courtyard, hoping it would supplement their income. Yet, despite their hard work, the family's financial situation remained dire.

Nurnahar was determined to provide her

children with an education. She enrolled four of them in school, but the financial strain made it incredibly difficult for her to cover the costs of their education, including school fees, uniforms, and even meals. Many times, the family went without food to make sure the children could continue their studies.

With her husband lacking formal qualifications for other work, Nurnahar felt the weight of their situation even more. At this critical time, help came from Uttaran, supported by Misereor. Uttaran offered training in vegetable farming, and Nurnahar seized the opportunity, completing the training with dedication.

Following the training, Nurnahar received materials for vegetable farming through the Uttaran-Misereor project. With this support, she and her husband set to work cultivating vegetables in their backyard. Their hard work paid off as they successfully grew a variety of vegetables. They now sell some of the produce

in the local market, bringing in additional income and helping to improve the family's financial stability.

Nurnahar is now able to meet her family's needs more easily and feels a deep sense of satisfaction from her achievements. She is especially grateful to Uttaran and Misereor for the invaluable support they provided. Their assistance has transformed her life, giving her

the tools and knowledge to overcome the challenges she once faced.

Nurnahar's story is a powerful reminder that with patience, perseverance, and hard work, it is possible to overcome even the most difficult circumstances. Her journey from struggle to success is an inspiration, showing that help, when offered at the right time, can change lives and bring hope to families facing adversity.





Case

22

Amina Khatun's Struggle and Relief Leading to Hope

Amina Khatun, 42, lives in Bhasanchar with her husband, Nur Alam, and their seven children. Originally from Myanmar, Amina's family was forcibly displaced and took refuge in Bangladesh, where their lives became a constant struggle.

Upon arriving in the Kutupalong camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar district, Amina and her family faced extreme hardship. With no income and little support, they relied on whatever help they could receive from local fishermen or various organizations. Their days were marked by hunger and uncertainty, with little hope of improvement.

In 2021, after hearing that accommodation was available for displaced Myanmar nationals in Bhasanchar, Amina moved her family to rooms 3, 4, and 7 of "D" house in cluster no. 49 on the 3rd floor. Here, her husband found work fishing, but despite the daily struggle, they still couldn't meet their family's basic needs. The assistance they received from local organizations was helpful but insufficient to fully support a family of nine.

In 2024, Amina's life took a turn for the better when she received an LPG gas connection through the Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh project, funded by Misereor and implemented by Uttaran. For the first time in years, Amina could cook properly for her children, providing them with hot, nutritious meals.

Amina was overjoyed by this new source of relief. With the gift of LPG gas, she felt her family's quality of life improve, and she could finally cook and feed her children properly. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the donors and implementing organizations, praying for their good deeds.

Amina's story is a powerful testament to the resilience of displaced families and the transformative impact of even small acts of kindness. Through the support of Uttaran and Misereor, Amina's family can now live with a sense of dignity, nourishment, and hope for the future.



Case

23

Rashida's Story of Hope After Struggle

Rashida, 32, lives in Camp No. 25 (Alikhali, Teknaf), Bangladesh, after being forcibly displaced from Myanmar in 2017. Her life has been marked by unimaginable loss and hardship. In 2012, Rashida's husband was abducted by the Myanmar government, and she has not heard from him since. Tragically, after relocating to Bangladesh, she received the heartbreaking news of his death.

A widow with a speech impediment and paralysis on the right side of her body, Rashida faces significant physical challenges. She has one daughter, Noor Kayes, who is 18 years old, and together, they live in difficult conditions. With no one in the family to earn a living, Rashida relies on food cards provided within the camp for sustenance. Though life is tough, she does small jobs for various agencies in the camp to try to earn whatever she can.

For a long time, Rashida and her daughter had very little to wear. They lacked basic clothing and felt deeply ashamed to leave their home, as they were unable to cover themselves properly. Their days were marked by extreme

hardship, and survival often felt like an impossible struggle.

However, in January 2024, a moment of relief came when Rashida and her daughter received much-needed clothing through the Misereor-funded project, implemented by Uttaran. On January 14, they were given thami and lungi, a gesture that brought them immense happiness and comfort.

Rashida was overjoyed by the support, and she expressed heartfelt gratitude to Uttaran for providing assistance during such a difficult time in their lives. "This gift has brought light into our lives. We no longer have to live in shame," she said, smiling for the first time in a long while.

Rashida's story is a testament to resilience and hope in the face of adversity. Through Uttaran's support, funded by Misereor, she and her daughter have found relief in a moment of great need, showing that even small acts of kindness can make a lasting impact on those who are struggling the most.



Case

24

A Glimmer of Light in Shajahan Begum's Struggles

A Ray of Hope in Shajahan Begum's Struggles
Shajahan Begum, a resident of Block D-10 in Camp No. 25, Alikhali, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, lives a life marked by sorrow and resilience. After fleeing the violence in Myanmar in 2017, she sought refuge in Bangladesh with her husband, Nur Mohammad, and their three children. However, what was meant to be a new beginning turned into a struggle for survival.

Four years ago, Shajahan's husband abandoned her, marrying another woman and leaving her to fend for herself and their children. Since then, Shajahan has been the sole provider for her family, facing countless challenges. Her eldest son, 17-year-old Azizur Rahman, works at a chicken farm in the camp to help make ends meet, but their income barely covers their basic needs. Nights were especially difficult—Shajahan and her children slept under torn mosquito nets, vulnerable to diseases, and without even a floor mat to sit on during the day.

Recently, however, a glimmer of hope appeared. Uttaran, an NGO working in the

camp, supported by Misereor, extended its support to Shajahan and her family. Through their assistance, Shajahan received new mosquito nets and floor mats. With tears in her eyes, she shared how these simple items would make a world of difference. "The mosquito nets will protect us from mosquitoes and diseases, and the floor mats mean we no longer have to sit on the bare ground," she said with heartfelt gratitude.

This small yet meaningful support has brought a new light into Shajahan's life, giving her strength and courage to continue her fight for a better future. Her story is one of perseverance amidst adversity and a reminder of the transformative impact of compassion and aid.

Shajahan's journey reflects the struggles faced by countless displaced families and underscores the importance of extending a helping hand. The support from Uttaran has not only eased her burdens but has also touched her heart and inspired hope for brighter days ahead.



Case

25

Setara's Story with Lifesaving Mosquito Nets

In 2017, Setara Begum's husband, Abdul Motalib, was shot to death in front of her eyes by the Mogh forces. Widow Setara somehow escaped with her life, along with her two daughters, Sahara Bibi (18) and Dil Kayes (16). Fleeing from Myanmar, they reached Cox's Bazar and found shelter in Block G-29, Balukhali Camp No. 9, Ukhiya.

Amid immense suffering, they somehow managed to survive in the camp. In 2019, she got her elder daughter, Sahara, married to MD Rashid, who was a resident of Jamtoli Camp. Within three years of marriage, Sahara gave birth to two children. Setara had hoped that her pain would lessen after getting her elder daughter married. Howev-

er, her hopes were shattered when Sahara's husband abandoned her and secretly left for India in 2023. Totally helpless, Sahara had to take shelter in her mother's home. Setara's family then consisted of five members, including two daughters and two grandchildren.

With such a large family, Setara's suffering knew no bounds due to the lack of adequate food and accommodation. As there were no opportunities to earn money, she was unable to provide her young grandchildren with nutritious food and medicine. They endured endless pain and misery.

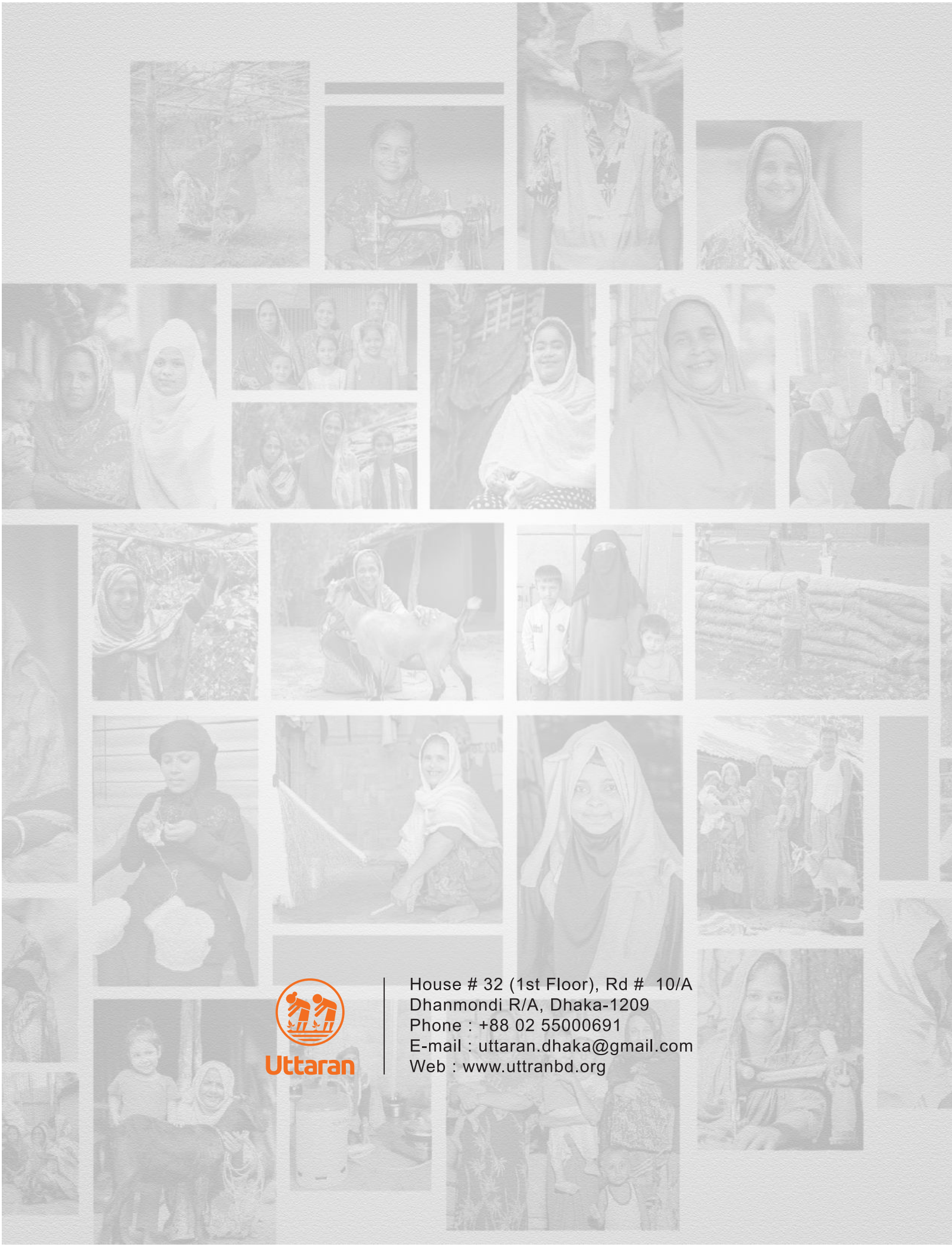
Another significant challenge in the camps was the increasing mosquito infestation.

Due to the dense population and lack of cleanliness, the number of dengue-carrying mosquitoes steadily rose, causing many in the camp to fall ill with mosquito-borne diseases like dengue. Setara was so helpless that she couldn't even afford to buy a mosquito net to protect her family from bites or a mat for a comfortable sleep at night, which could lead to other diseases, adding more burden to her struggles.

Under the project "Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities in Bangladesh,"

supported by MISEREOR and implemented by UTTARAN, Setara received a good quality mosquito net and a mat. Now, she and her family are protected from the danger of mosquito-borne diseases and can sleep soundly at night. She said, "Now my family feels safe. I can't thank the NGOs enough for the support I got."

Misereor and Uttaran contributed significantly to controlling the mass outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases in the Rohingya camp



Uttaran

House # 32 (1st Floor), Rd # 10/A
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209
Phone : +88 02 55000691
E-mail : uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com
Web : www.uttranbd.org