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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Field visits**

## **Report of the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to Bangladesh, 26 June to 30 June 2022**

### **I. Introduction**

1. For the annual field visit of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), a delegation of six members visited the People's Republic of Bangladesh from 26 to 30 June 2022. Their purpose was to further enhance the Board's understanding of how the United Nations is working with the Government of Bangladesh to deliver on national development priorities in the context of the wider United Nations reform agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see Annex 3, available on the Executive Board website for the purpose of the visit). The transition of Bangladesh from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026 was also of relevance for the visit. The programme included observing field operations conducted by the United Nations and participating agencies, in addition to their work within the United Nations country team (UNCT); understanding how the strategies and programmes of the organizations link to national development priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF); providing insight into the implementation of the policies and strategies of the organizations at the country, local and regional levels; and discussing the impact of the strategies and programmes of the organizations and the United Nations development system (UNDS) as a whole. The delegation of six members was led by H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt, President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the United Nations (see Annex 1 for the full list of delegation members).

2. The delegation would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for welcoming the delegation and for the time afforded to the delegation. It would also like to thank the agencies for the wide-ranging and relevant nature of the projects visited and meetings attended. In particular, the balance between site visits and meetings, as well as between rural and urban settings, was extremely useful to allow the delegation to observe the field operations of the United Nations and participating agencies, as well as their work within the UNCT. Warm appreciation is also extended to the Bangladesh country team for the well-prepared and well-organized joint field visit, as well as to the Executive Board secretariat for their continuous support and to all the partners that were available for the exchanges.

3. The visit included meetings with government officials at the national level: the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; the Local Government Division in the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives; the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; the Directorate General of Drugs Administration; and the Information and Communication Technology Division in the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology. Meetings were also held with government

officials at district and local levels in Cox's Bazar, as well as with representatives of the United Nations system and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners both in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.

4. The delegation visited the sites of a number of projects where assistance is provided by the United Nations, including the National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme (NUPRP) in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, known by the Government of Bangladesh as the Livelihoods Improvement for Urban Poor Communities Project (UNDP, United Nations Volunteers [UNV]); a Solid Waste Landfill and Disaster Reduction project (UNDP), a Women-Friendly Space/Women-Led Community Centre (UNFPA) and a health clinic for aged people (UNOPS) in the Rohingya camps; the Sadar Hospital (UNFPA, United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], International Organization for Migration [IOM], World Health Organization [WHO]) in Cox's Bazar; and a programme on menstrual health and hygiene support for adolescent girls (UNFPA with the World Food Programme [WFP]) in Dhaka. The delegation also visited a laboratory in Dhaka (UNOPS), attended a stakeholder meeting of the National Resilience Programme (NRP) (UNDP, UNOPS, UN Women) and met with the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) project (United Nations Capital Development Fund [UNCDF], UNICEF, UNFPA, International Labour Organization [ILO], UNOPS, Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]). Please refer to Annex 2 for an overview of the programme.

5. This report will cover the main reflections of the Executive Board delegation, focusing on the five central themes of the visit: (1) development achievements and LDC graduation, (2) gender, (3) climate change, (4) the response to the Rohingya crisis, and (5) coordination between United Nations organizations and with the Government and other stakeholders.

## **II. Background**

6. The delegation appreciated the selection of Bangladesh as the destination for the first country visit of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Board since 2019. The country has an impressive track record of growth and development. It has been among the fastest growing economies in the world in recent decades, supported by a demographic dividend, strong exports of ready-made garments (RMG), remittances and stable macroeconomic conditions. However, these impressive development results must be viewed in the context of the country's vulnerability to shocks, some of which are transboundary in nature. The visit provided an opportunity to experience first-hand the transition process that Bangladesh has been experiencing, culminating in LDC graduation foreseen for 2026, and a vision to become an upper middle-income country (UMIC) by 2031. The delegation was also able to observe the opportunities and challenges such a transition pose.

7. Bangladesh remains one of the most densely populated countries in the world. It is currently home to an estimated 170 million people, with the challenge of providing a road to prosperity for so many people, thus offering a distinctly unique perspective.

8. Bangladesh has long-standing relationships with UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and works closely with UNV and UNCDF as well. Therefore, the delegation also wanted to see how the role of the agencies in helping the country to achieve its development objectives has changed over time, as well as how they have supported the country throughout the transition process, in contexts relating to development, humanitarian issues and the climate.

## **III. Main themes of the field visit**

### **A. LDC graduation**

9. The delegation was impressed by Bangladesh's development achievements since independence. The country tells the world a remarkable story of poverty reduction and development. From being one of the poorest nations at birth in 1971, Bangladesh reached lower middle-income status in 2015. It is on track to graduate from the United Nations LDC list in 2026. Annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 6 percent, while per capita income rose from US\$754 to \$1,909. Poverty declined from 48.9 percent in 2000 to 20.5 percent in 2019, based on the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. In addition, food production tripled between 1973 and 2019. Moreover, an improvement was seen in many

aspects of human-development outcomes. The country also has a lot to offer in terms of South-South and triangular cooperation, and these opportunities could be further explored.

10. Over the last few years, Bangladesh has experienced several challenges with regard to its development achievements. Among these was the influx of more than 745,000 Rohingyas fleeing the violence in Myanmar and several climate-related disasters. These events included the devastating floods that ravaged the north-east of the country during the visit. As with other countries, Bangladesh has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which constrained economic activity and reversed some of the gains achieved over the last decade. GDP growth returned to 6.9 percent in the 2021 financial year as pandemic-related restrictions were eased. This year, the conflict in Ukraine and its impact on supply-related issues, as well as on food and energy prices, will also affect the economy of Bangladesh.

11. In the longer term, as the country strives to reach UMIC status by 2031, several opportunities and challenges exist in terms of sustaining these impressive development achievements and moving towards sustainable, inclusive and green growth, which were brought to the delegation's attention.

12. First and foremost is the country's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Climate-related disasters reduce GDP by an estimated 1 percent. Addressing such events and continuing to transition from disaster response to building resilience, as illustrated by the NRP, will therefore be essential.

13. Population growth and rapid urbanization have proven to be strong catalysts for economic growth and poverty reduction. However, spatial relocation of poverty from rural to urban areas is already an issue. Furthermore, with 50 percent of the population expected to be living in urban areas by 2050, continued rapid urbanization could pose a threat to the country's development in the future. A strategy to manage urbanization and create jobs, as well as programmes to address urban poverty such as the NUPRP, are therefore essential.

14. In addition, creating opportunities to diversify exports beyond the RMG sector, generating jobs and employment opportunities for the majority of youth entering the labour market, and establishing a policy environment to attract private sector investment, will be important elements of any strategy for a smooth transition to UMIC status. These actions will need to be coupled with investing in human capital and a skilled labour force that is ready to support this economic transition.

15. Graduation will come with a reduction in direct development assistance and will restrict access to financing modalities that are specifically geared towards LDCs. Government and development partners should move away from project-based cooperation and towards more comprehensive engagement and strategic partnerships. Strengthening the domestic resource base and creating an attractive environment for the private sector are also essential.

## **B. Gender**

16. The pathway to UMIC status and transformative, participatory and inclusive growth and governance also includes increasing efforts for women's economic empowerment and gender equality. This implies that women and other currently underrepresented groups have equal and meaningful representation in the economic and political development of the country, and that their rights are fully respected. This includes equal access to education for girls at all levels and equal access for women to the labour market. It also involves securing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Such developments are also crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda, while ensuring that "no one is left behind"—the guiding principle behind the UNDS.

17. Gender-based violence (GBV) and child marriage remain a challenge in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has a sound policy and legal framework to promote gender equality and prevent harmful practices and GBV. However, the implementation of these policies and laws could be improved. The delegation was impressed by the engagement of women from the communities in the programmes visited and by their strong determination to address gender issues. This could be further supported, including by local and central authorities.

18. Women are increasingly more vulnerable than men to the impacts of climate change and other external shocks. The importance of focusing on gender-equitable solutions was clear

across the climate response projects in Bangladesh, most notably in visiting climate-displaced communities in Cox's Bazar.

19. UNFPA and WFP's Urban Nutrition and Menstrual Health pilot programme uses blockchain technology to improve the menstrual health of adolescent girls and women in the urban slums of Dhaka. Using this innovative technology, UNFPA and WFP are not only providing aid to adolescent girls and women, but also promoting changes in behaviour to eliminate stigma surrounding menstrual health and hygiene, increasing knowledge surrounding nutrition, and contributing towards ending child marriage.

20. One of the primary aims of the project visited at the Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar is the integration of sexual and reproductive health services and the response to GBV as part of the overall effort to improve the health system. The Sadar Hospital's focus on midwives and SRHR presents an important opportunity to help overcome obstacles to eradicating maternal deaths. The hospital could serve as a pilot for a future scale-up in other parts of the country, provided that enhanced and sustainable financing, including government funding, is available.

21. In the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, GBV is an ongoing concern, as are prevailing gender norms. The delegation visited a Women-Friendly Space and Women-Led Community Centre in one of the camps. In total, UNFPA supports 26 Women-Friendly Spaces in the camps and eight in the surrounding host community, providing integrated sexual and reproductive health and GBV services to vulnerable women and girls. Due to the uncertainty regarding the prospects of a safe return to Myanmar, Rohingya women and girls in particular are facing stressful situations, triggering trauma and distress. The mental and psychological support provided at these centres provides women with a safe space and allows for the creation of a sense of community. In addition, UNFPA also supports 10 Women-Led Community Centres to contribute to the advancement of gender equality, promote positive masculinity, and support the empowerment of women and girls through skills-development activities.

### **C. Climate change**

22. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. The country regularly faces a series of disasters, ranging from cyclones, flash floods, landslides and extreme temperatures, to rising sea levels. Climate change has adverse effects on Bangladesh's overall development gains and impedes progress in virtually all aspects of life. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to mitigation and adaptation is key to the sustainable development of the country. The Government of Bangladesh has taken significant steps to develop adequate policies to address the issue, as well as to secure financing. It has established a dedicated trust fund to tackle climate change, and 1 percent of GDP is currently spent on climate action. However, financing remains a serious obstacle. The Government also recognizes that a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach is needed, and several policies have been set in motion to this end.

23. The development and implementation of the NRP, which is a partnership between the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, UN Women and UNOPS, has proven to be an effective measure in building capacity for an improved response to the changing nature of disasters. The delegation held a meeting with stakeholders from the NRP, where the success of the programme was confirmed by donors, government representatives and by other stakeholders. The value of continuing the NRP is unquestionable. However, sufficient funding will be required.

24. As a consequence of climate change, the number of climate-displaced persons is rapidly increasing. Being forced to leave their homes and livelihoods, these individuals tend to seek refuge in cities, in search of jobs and better economic opportunities. As a result, Bangladesh is facing rapid and unplanned urbanization. Climate-displaced communities tend to settle in poor-quality housing, often without access to basic services such as running water and electricity. This, in turn, puts significant pressure on city management as well.

25. To observe how the NUPRP is being implemented, the delegation visited a climate-displaced community in Samity Para, in Cox's Bazar. The project is supported by UNDP and UNV. The delegation had the opportunity to listen to the views of representatives from the

community (mostly women and girls) and hear about the effect the project has on their lives. The project has empowered women and girls living in those communities, giving them the space to play an integral part in decision-making. As a result, their socio-economic status has improved, they have developed skills and some have even started businesses. The educational status of girls has also improved. However, the programme is facing a challenge in ensuring sustainable financing for the ever-growing numbers of climate-displaced persons and their needs.

26. While many efforts are being undertaken by the Government to tackle climate change, there is still room for improvement regarding environmental protection and ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment. UNOPS has worked with the Government and universities to assess the effects of climate change on local infrastructure and develop strategies and interventions to mitigate the areas identified. However, more efficient and enforceable policies regarding air pollution, solid waste management, sewage waste management and single-use plastics are required.

27. The delegation visited the Sustainable Solutions to Solid Waste Project, developed by UNDP. The project is a response to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh and the pressing need for solid waste management both in the host communities and the refugee camps. The project was initially designed to respond to needs in the refugee camps and host communities, but the result has been an effective model that could be replicated across all parts of the country, enabling diverse communities to benefit from it. It could also create income-generation opportunities. However, as well as the lack of sufficient long-term financing, the lack of access to land also poses a significant challenge.

#### **D. The response to the Rohingya crisis**

28. The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya women, girls, boys and men into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991–1992 and again in 2016. However, August 2017 saw by far the largest and fastest influx of Rohingya people into Bangladesh. Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya—including more than 400,000 children—have fled into Cox’s Bazar. As of March 2019, over 909,000 stateless Rohingya reside in the Ukhiya and Teknaf *upazilas* (administrative regions). The vast majority live in 33 extremely congested camps, including the largest single site, the Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, which is host to approximately 626,500 displaced Rohingyas.

29. The Rohingya crisis has resulted in Cox’s Bazar hosting the largest refugee camp in the world. A high percentage of Rohingyas are youth, who, despite receiving some form of education or skills-based training, remain largely idle. From experience elsewhere, this could present a challenge to development, peace and security inside and outside Bangladesh in the future.

30. The Government of Bangladesh needs to be commended for its commitment to ensuring support for the Rohingya population, while repatriation remains its stated primary objective. The Government’s response is implemented through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the Joint Response Plan, and the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). Government and United Nations organizations are collaborating in their response to the Rohingya crisis.

31. The camps came across as being well managed. Basic services, food, health care and other assistance are being provided, and disaster mitigation measures have been largely successful. The Rohingyas are receiving some skills-based training, and education for a proportion of children is being provided through the Myanmar curriculum. However, despite these efforts, the Rohingyas remain in an extremely precarious, vulnerable situation being stateless, dependent on aid and face uncertainty when it comes to their prospects for return.

32. The influx of the Rohingyas into Cox’s Bazar has also had an impact on the host communities, sometimes leading to competition and the erosion of social cohesion. Over time, population growth among the refugee communities will require holistic approaches to adequately address these issues.

33. The root causes of their plight in Myanmar have not been addressed. The delegation also learned from the RRRC that efforts to return the Rohingyas are obstructed by the Myanmar Government's refusal to recognize its own citizens. The lack of political will from Myanmar to address the Rohingya crisis calls for the international community to continue placing the issue high on the international agenda.

34. The delegation also heard from the ERD that the position of the Government of Bangladesh is to ensure the "voluntary and dignified" return of the Rohingyas. With repatriation being the primary objective, United Nations projects are approved on an annual basis. The United Nations system will have to balance this requirement with the need for integrated programmes and multi-year planning, also making flexible use of development funding.

35. Given the Government's position to separate short-term humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya (under the Joint Response Plan) and development assistance for the host community, the Rohingya situation is not substantially reflected in the UNSDCF in Bangladesh at this point in time. The humanitarian community, however, is continuing its efforts to identify entry points to promote interventions favouring the resilience of Rohingya and the host community, notably for women and youth, as well as multi-year planning in various areas. These include energy supply, climate adaptation, the introduction of multi-year educational and skills-development programmes, and medium- to long-term improvements in service delivery in health or social protection.

36. All government interlocutors, at the national as well as the local level, expressed appreciation for the important work of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, as well as other United Nations organizations in support of Bangladesh's response to the Rohingya crisis.

#### **E. Coordination between United Nations organizations, the Government and other stakeholders**

37. The UNSDCF (2022–2026), formulated jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and the UNCT, is the UNDS's joint framework to support national priorities and objectives, as formulated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan (8FYP). This framework focuses on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable graduation from the LDC category, while moving towards achieving UMIC status.

38. The agencies' country programme documents for Bangladesh are aligned with the UNSDCF. In addition, a monitoring and evaluation strategy, as well as mechanisms for national data analysis, have been agreed. These help the Government, especially ministries, in decision-making regarding the delivery of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also strengthens the partnership between the Government and the United Nations system when it comes to using data, to harmonize the investments, roles and responsibilities of the Government and development partners.

39. The UNCT works closely with the Government of Bangladesh. The delegation observed a good working atmosphere and level of coordination within the UNCT, and more specifically for the concerned United Nations organizations (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS). In addition, the delegation received a positive impression regarding relationships between the three agencies and the Government, with a special mention for UNDP's Resident Representative, who is the longest-serving representative and led the visit in most of the meetings with the Government and its officials. The Resident Coordinator arrived just six weeks before the delegation's visit, and the new UNFPA and UNOPS representatives arrived less than a week before the visit.

40. It is important to mention that cooperation between the United Nations organizations in Cox's Bazar seemed to be good, with the joint commitment of all United Nations staff to support the response to the displaced Rohingyas. However, effective and efficient coordination should remain a priority issue, to avoid duplication and overlapping structures as much as possible. Likewise, the importance of an effective dialogue between the local government and the United Nations organizations working in the camps cannot be underestimated.

41. The visit to the climate-displaced communities in Cox's Bazar serves as a strong example of a partnership between local authorities, UNDP and UNV. The local community said that

the project had served as a bridge between the community and the local government, also linking them to the national Government.

42. The work that UNV are doing in Bangladesh deserves a special mention. Complementing the work of the agencies, their efforts are truly providing a service to the entire UNDS. The focus on the participation of women, youth and other relevant groups also contributes to ownership when it comes to achieving the SDGs.

43. The UNCT in Bangladesh is an impressive group, with an inspiring commitment to contributing to development outcomes. The recent arrival of the new Resident Coordinator and a number of new heads of agencies could provide further impetus to working as “One UN.” Strong interaction between the United Nations and the Government, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, is vital and will ensure that the UNDS remains accountable for results regarding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

44. The delegation observed a good working atmosphere and level of coordination within the UNCT, and more specifically for the United Nations organizations concerned (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS).

#### **IV. Main observations and recommendations**

45. Bangladesh tells the world a remarkable story of poverty reduction and development. The country has a lot to offer in terms of South-South and triangular cooperation, as it does when it comes to moving from disaster response to strengthening resilience. In addition, other countries could benefit from innovative approaches such as a2i. These opportunities could be further explored by the country and the United Nations, possibly involving the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

46. In the longer term, to sustain the impressive development achievements and move towards sustainable, inclusive and green growth on the way to reaching UMIC status by 2031, several opportunities and challenges were brought to the delegation’s attention. Among these are the need to continue moving from disaster response to climate resilience, developing strategies to manage urbanization and create jobs, and diversifying exports.

47. Securing adequate and sustainable financing poses a serious challenge. Interlocutors frequently expressed concern about uncertainty when it comes to sustained and continued funding of interventions. Government and development partners should move away from project-based cooperation towards more comprehensive engagement and strategic partnerships and financing. Strengthening the domestic resource base and creating an attractive environment for the private sector are also essential.

48. The pathway to UMIC status and transformative, participatory and inclusive growth and governance also includes increasing efforts for women’s economic empowerment and gender equality. Sound policy and legal frameworks are in place but need to be adequately implemented and enforced. In addition, continued attention for gender-equitable solutions in climate response is needed, as well as for scaling up successful projects relating to SRHR, fighting GBV and promoting changes in behaviour.

49. The scale of the need for climate adaptation and mitigation calls for adequate financing. Furthermore, a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach needs to be pursued. In this regard, several policies have been set in motion (such as the NRP); however, this will require continued investment and attention. In addition, more efficient and enforceable policies on air pollution, solid waste management, sewage waste management and single-use plastics are required.

50. The Rohingya crisis has resulted in Cox’s Bazar hosting the largest refugee camp in the world. The Government of Bangladesh needs to be commended for its commitment to ensure support for the Rohingya population, while repatriation remains its stated primary objective. The Rohingyas remain in an extremely precarious situation. The root causes of their plight in Myanmar have not been addressed and their future remains uncertain. A stronger, more coordinated response to the Rohingya crisis is required by the international community, including at the political level.

51. It is difficult for the United Nations system to balance the need for integrated programmes and multi-year planning with the Government's current practice. The Government may want to reconsider this process, especially given that approval for United Nations projects currently takes between 18 and 24 months. This might impact the ability of United Nations organizations to implement projects effectively and efficiently, in addition to having an impact on funding.

52. The UNCT works closely with the Government of Bangladesh. The UNSDCF (2022–2026) is formulated jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and aligned to national priorities and objectives as formulated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan (8FYP). Strong interaction between the United Nations and the Government, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, is vital and will ensure that the UNDS remains accountable for results regarding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. The recent arrival of the new Resident Coordinator and a number of new heads of agencies could provide further impetus for this, as well as for working as “One UN.”

53. The cooperation between the United Nations organizations seemed to be good in Cox's Bazar, with the joint commitment of all United Nations staff to support the response to the displaced Rohingyas. However, effective and efficient coordination should remain a priority issue, to avoid duplication and overlapping structures as much as possible.

## **Annex 1. Delegation for the field visit**

- H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt, President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the United Nations (head of delegation)
- H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Luis Antonio Lam Padilla, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Njambe Kinyungu, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations
- Ms. Mashael Muftah, International Aid Officer at Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

Accompanied by:

- Ms. Dalita Balassanian, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS
- Mr. Samuel Choritz, Chief of the Executive Board Branch, UNFPA
- Mr. William Axelsson, Head of the New York Board and External Relations Office, UNOPS

## **Annex 2. Overview of project sites and meetings during the field visit**

### **Sunday, 26 June 2022**

- Meeting with the UNCT in Bangladesh with the United Nations Resident Coordinator
- Meeting with the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Bangladesh heads of agencies
- Meeting with the Secretary and other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Meeting with the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Meeting with United Nations Heads of Sub-Offices based in Cox's Bazar, including the Principal Coordinator of the ISCG

**Monday, 27 June 2022**

- Visit to the Solid Waste and Landfill and Disaster Risk Management project in the Rohingya Camp (UNDP)
- Visit to the Women-Friendly Space/Women-Led Community Centre for Rohingya (UNFPA) in the camp, to see the integrated sexual and reproductive health and GBV efforts, and midwives providing family planning services
- Visit to a health clinic supporting aged people, which provides a nutrition programme, health consultations, physical therapy and protection services (UNOPS)
- Meeting with the Deputy Commissioner for Cox's Bazar and other senior officials with a briefing on the District Development Plan/SDG Localization project (initiative of multiple United Nations organizations)
- Meeting with the RRRC for Cox's Bazar
- Reception with partners and stakeholders in Cox's Bazar

**Tuesday, 28 June 2022**

- Visit to the climate-displaced communities in the Samity Para slum in Cox's Bazar with a visit by the local Mayor (UNDP, UNV)
- Visits to the Health and Gender Support joint programme for the Cox's Bazar district at Sadar district hospital (UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, WHO) and to the Development Theatre Puppet Show on GBV (part of the above project)

**Wednesday, 29 June 2022**

- Meeting with the Directorate General of Drug Administration and a laboratory visit (UNOPS)
- Meeting with the Secretary of the ERD of the Ministry of Finance and other senior officials
- Meeting with the Director of the a2i project (UNDP, UNCDF, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNOPS, FAO)
- Meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and stakeholders of the NRP (UNDP, UNOPS, UN Women)
- Visit to the Duaripara urban slum for the joint programme on menstrual health and hygiene support for adolescent girls (UNFPA, WFP)
- Visit to the Mirpur Ceramics urban slum for NUPRP (UNDP, UNV)

**Thursday, 30 June 2022**

- Meeting with the Secretary and other senior officials of the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
- Meeting with the Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Meeting with the ERD of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a debrief on the field visit
- Visit to the offices of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS to greet the staff
- Debrief meeting on the field visit with the UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS heads of agencies and the delegation

**Annex 3. Terms of reference for the field visit**

The terms of reference are available on the Executive Board website.

## List of acronyms

**8FYP:** Eighth Five-Year Plan  
**a2i:** Aspire to Innovate  
**ERD:** Economic Relations Division (Bangladesh)  
**FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)  
**GBV:** gender-based violence  
**GDP:** gross domestic product  
**ILO:** International Labour Organization  
**IOM:** International Organization for Migration  
**ISCG:** Inter-Sector Coordination Group  
**LDC:** Least Developed Country  
**NGO:** non-governmental organization  
**NRP:** National Resilience Programme  
**NURP:** National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme  
**QFFD:** Qatar Fund for Development  
**RMG:** ready-made garments  
**RRRC:** Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner  
**SRHR:** sexual and reproductive health and rights  
**UMIC:** upper middle-income country  
**UNCDF:** United Nations Capital Development Fund  
**UNCT:** United Nations country team  
**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme  
**UNDS:** United Nations development system  
**UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund  
**UNOPS:** United Nations Office for Project Services  
**UNSDCF:** United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework  
**UNV:** United Nations Volunteers  
**UN Women:** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
**WFP:** World Food Programme  
**WHO:** World Health Organization

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