

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
Cox's Bazar
www.rrrc.gov.bd

No: 51.04.2200.005.00.032.23- 1209

Date: 24 March 2024


Sub: **Approval of Community Engagement in Solid Waste Management in Rohingya Camps.**

Ref: ISCG's memo no.- ISCG/2024/04, date: 29 February 2024

In reference to the above-mentioned subject and letter, this is to inform you that as part of the ongoing efforts to address proper and efficient solid waste management in the Rohingya camps, the RRRC Office approves of the following recommendations/actions to be included in the solid waste management policy:

1. Every household is responsible for cleaning around their surroundings and disposing waste in designated areas (or consulting waste collectors for safe disposal)
2. Every establishment (learning centers, mosques, shops...) is responsible for cleaning around their surroundings and disposing waste in designated areas (or to consult waste collectors for safe disposal)
3. Cleaning campaign: Community leaders should organize cleaning campaigns in their area of responsibility (camps/blocks/sub-blocks/Majhi area). Those leaders can request cleaning tools from WASH or SCCCM actors if required for out-reach areas (like drains). At least one cleaning campaign per month is recommended (ideally on the last week of each month).
4. "Do not litter waste": Government officials, humanitarian workers, Community leaders and beneficiaries amongst themselves should reinforce messages regarding "no-littering behavior."

Thank you for your continuous support and cooperation.



24.03.24

Abu Saleh Mohammad Obaidullah
(Deputy Secretary)

Additional Refugee Relief & Repatriation Commissioner
Cox's Bazar.

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Mr. David Bugden
Principal Coordinator
ISCG, Cox's Bazar.

Copy for kind information and necessary action (Not According to Seniority):

1. **Head of sub-office**, UNHCR, Cox's Bazar.
2. **Deputy Chief of Mission**, IOM, Cox's Bazar
3. **Head of Area office**, WFP, Cox's Bazar.
4. **Chief of Field office**, UNICEF, Cox's Bazar.
5. **Head of Field office**, UNFPA, Cox's Bazar.
6. **Head of Sub-office**, UN Women, Cox's Bazar.
7. **Camp-in-Charge (all)**, Ukhiya/Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.
8. **PS to RRRC** (For kind attention of RRRC)
9. Office Copy.

Findings on Community Engagement related to Solid Waste Management in the camps.

WASH sector has been involved in an intensive consultation with WASH actors, government representatives, and Rohingya communities in 2023 on community engagement related to Solid Waste Management. A total of 887 participants from 8 camps have been consulted at field level. From these consultations, the findings are:

1. **Stakeholder Consensus:** All actors (Government, Refugees, WASH actors) have acknowledged the need for more involvement and ownership of the beneficiaries in cleaning waste at camp level.
2. **Community Awareness and Understanding:** The Rohingya community exhibits a profound knowledge and understanding of the importance of a clean environment and the impact it has on their health and overall well-being.
3. **Voluntary Cleaning:** The community has expressed willingness to engage in voluntary cleaning activities around their household as well as within their camps/blocks/sub-blocks without the need for external incentives or snacks.
4. **Cleaning around household/establishment:** Community leaders agreed that all the shelters should be involved in the cleaning and waste collection around their own households. WASH actors and CiC should communicate the responsibilities of the household regarding cleaning the surroundings. It is also recommended that establishment (learning centers, mosques, shops...) have a similar approach around their facilities.
5. **Cleaning campaign by community leaders:** Community leaders have agreed to organized cleaning campaign in their camps/blocks/sub-blocks/Majhi area. For such activity, leaders have expressed the need for cleaning tools which could be provided on request by WASH or SCCCM actors (at camp level) if the community is involved in drain cleaning. Community leaders have expressed preferences for cleaning campaigns to be scheduled on Sunday, Thursday, and Friday in the morning on monthly basis.
6. **Positive Reinforcement over Penalties:** Understanding that punitive measures may not resonate with the community according to community consultation, we advocate for positive behavior improvement, rather than imposing penalties or punishments for non-compliance. Our approach focuses on enhancing community participation such as introducing a friendly competition among households or blocks.
7. **Incorporating Waste Collectors for Effective Cleaning Campaigns:** Waste collectors need to be involved during cleaning campaign to ensure safe collection and disposal of the waste to the Material Recovery Facility (MRFs).
8. **Don't litter waste:** Government officials, humanitarian actors, Community leaders and beneficiaries amongst themselves should reinforce messages regarding behavior change on littering waste.

In conclusion, community engagement policy prioritizes collaboration, positive reinforcement, and voluntary participation, aligning with the preferences and values of the Rohingya community. By fostering a sense of responsibility, we aim to empower the community to actively contribute to solid waste management, creating a cleaner and healthier environment for all.