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BANGLADESH
Protection on the edge

How humanitarian funding constraints can compound trafficking risks for Rohingya refugees

A case study developed through collaboration between UNHCR and Nuffield College, University of Oxford

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Understanding the findings



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Funding levels are one of several factors shaping protection outcomes. Population growth, new refugee arrivals, restrictions on rights and opportunities, insecurity, and the broader operating environment also influence protection risks and humanitarian needs. UNHCR operations and partners respond to resource constraints through prioritization, programme adjustments, partnerships, community-based approaches and continued fundraising. These measures can mitigate some of the effects of funding shortfalls. The case study takes these efforts into account while examining what happens when available resources are nevertheless insufficient to sustain the capacity, coverage and accessibility of critical protection services and other essential assistance on which refugees depend.

This study focuses mainly on UNHCR-supported responses, rather than the full inter-agency response. The analysis therefore cannot fully capture the broader complexity of protection dynamics in the camps, including contextual, political, security and socio-economic factors that also shape protection outcomes. Findings should be interpreted within a broader, complex and evolving operational context and alongside efforts to preserve essential services. In Bangladesh, UNHCR and partners have reorganized responsibilities, consolidated delivery, and prioritized life-saving assistance to minimize impact on refugees. As a result, changes in funding levels do not always translate directly into reduced service delivery. However, maintaining core services does not mean all needs are met: preventive activities may be reduced, assistance may not expand with population growth, and structural constraints persist beyond what humanitarian financing alone can address.

The analysis does not assume that funding reductions automatically result in trafficking or other forms of exploitation. Rather, it examines how simultaneous pressures on protection systems and essential services can weaken established safeguards, reduce opportunities to prevent, identify and respond to abuse, and compound pre-existing vulnerabilities known to increase refugees' exposure to trafficking, forced labour, forced marriage, child labour and dangerous onward movement.

The case study applies the Framework of Analysis for Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, developed through Nuffield College's work with the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, to assess how funding-related reductions in protection capacity may increase trafficking vulnerabilities.

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Executive summary

Developed jointly by UNHCR and Nuffield College, University of Oxford, this case study combines operational evidence and independent analysis to support urgent action to protect Rohingya refugees from trafficking and other abuses.

The Bangladesh case study shows that protection is one of the strongest safeguards against trafficking. For Rohingya refugees, services such as registration, legal aid, health care, education, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, and community outreach help reduce vulnerabilities that traffickers and other criminals exploit.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh face acute and longstanding protection risks. Stateless and excluded from formal employment, they live under significant restrictions on movement and remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs and access essential services. In the overcrowded camps, insecurity, poverty and limited prospects for durable solutions already expose refugees to heightened risks of trafficking, forced labour, forced marriage, child labour and dangerous onward movement.

Against this backdrop, humanitarian funding shortfalls are placing increasing pressure on the protection environment. In 2025 alone, UNHCR Bangladesh's operational budget fell by 7.1 per cent compared with 2024, while the Rohingya refugee population in the camps increased by 17.5 per cent. UNHCR and its partners have done their utmost to maintain many core services amid financial pressures through hyper-prioritization of life-saving humanitarian aid, reorganization, partnerships and resource reallocation. However, growing needs continue to outpace available resources. The arrival of more than 170,000 refugees since late 2023, combined with continued aid dependency and limited opportunities for self-reliance, has increased pressure on health, education, shelter, water and sanitation, community outreach and livelihoods support.[1]

Maintaining core services does not mean that all needs are met. Newly arrived households face a shortage of suitable land and allocated shelter, leaving the vast majority dependent on shared, rented or informally constructed accommodation; population growth increases demand on existing water and sanitation infrastructure; and prioritization of immediate assistance has reduced some preventive mental health and psychosocial activities, particularly for adolescents. Limited opportunities for lawful work and continuing education also leave refugees with few alternatives to humanitarian assistance and constrain young people's future prospects.

In a context already marked by protracted displacement, aid dependency, insecurity and limited opportunities for self-reliance, these compounding pressures can have profound consequences for the safety, dignity and resilience of refugees. These pressures can interact, increasing vulnerability to deceptive offers of work, assistance or onward movement and related risks of abuse, trafficking and exploitation. Where preventive activities are reduced or assistance cannot expand with growing needs, opportunities to prevent, identify and respond to trafficking and other protection risks may be constrained.

Reductions in humanitarian funding do not automatically or inevitably lead to increased trafficking. The case study focuses on those vulnerability factors through which funding constraints may compound existing risks; it does not establish their independent contribution to trafficking outcomes. It focuses mainly on UNHCR-supported responses, rather than the full inter-agency response. Findings should be interpreted within a complex, evolving context and alongside efforts to preserve essential services.

UNHCR and its partners continue to adapt and deliver under severe resource constraints. However, sustained, flexible and predictable funding remains critical to preserving the protection environment on which Rohingya refugees depend, as well as to sustaining preventive activities and enabling assistance to expand with growing needs. Further cuts are likely to compromise UNHCR's ability to identify risks, support vulnerable individuals and provide timely protection interventions. Investment in protection is therefore not only a humanitarian imperative; it is also a cost-effective means of preventing trafficking, exploitation, and other protection harms.

1 Joint Government of Bangladesh – UNHCR, Rohingya refugee population dashboard, 30 September 2026.



At a glance:

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

1.1 million Rohingya refugees in 2025

+17.15% (172,442) Refugee population increase between 2024 and 2025

+28% Detected trafficking cases increase between 2024 and 2025

59% Funding gap in 2025

Funding constraints and changes in operational budget

-35.5% Reduction in health budget between 2022 and 2025

-32.1% Reduction in water and sanitation budget between 2022 and 2025

-26.3% Reduction in access and documentation budget between 2022 and 2025

-15.7% Reduction in child protection budget between 2022 and 2025

-10.3% Reduction in UNHCR Bangladesh operational budget between 2022 and 2025

-7.1% Reduction in UNHCR Bangladesh operational budget between 2024 and 2025

* Budget changes reflect funding constraints alongside changes in agency responsibilities, programme scope and completed infrastructure investments. They do not necessarily represent equivalent reductions in services available to refugees

Partnership and methodology



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UNHCR and Nuffield College, University of Oxford, jointly developed this case study to examine how reductions in humanitarian funding may weaken protection safeguards and compound vulnerability to human trafficking. The collaboration combines UNHCR's operational evidence, field experience and multidisciplinary protection expertise with Nuffield College's independent academic analysis, methodological rigour and expertise on modern slavery and human trafficking.

UNHCR staff from the Bangladesh country operation, the Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific, and the Division of International Protection and Solutions contributed operational evidence, field knowledge, and contextual analysis. Their contributions brought together expertise in legal protection, child protection, community-based protection, gender-based violence, asylum, mixed and onward movements and route-based approaches.

Nuffield College led the research and analysis in close collaboration with UNHCR. The study draws on quantitative and qualitative evidence, relevant literature and stakeholder consultations in Cox's Bazar, including with non-governmental organization partners and the International Organization for Migration.

Drawing on Nuffield College's work with the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the research applies the Framework of Analysis for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: A Tool for Prevention to examine how reduced protection capacity can compound existing trafficking risks for refugees. The approach adapts the atrocity prevention framework developed by Adama Dieng, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

The Framework examines how structural, legal, social, economic and protection-related factors interact to shape vulnerability. It is used to assess how funding reductions may weaken established safeguards and compound existing vulnerabilities, without assuming a direct causal relationship between funding cuts and trafficking.

By linking frontline evidence with independent analysis, the collaboration helps identify the protection functions that are most important to preserve when resources are constrained. The findings are intended to inform operational prioritization and support evidence-based engagement with governments, donors, humanitarian partners and other stakeholders.

Bangladesh: a closer look

Bangladesh hosts one of the world's largest refugee populations, with Rohingya refugees living in a protracted, highly constrained protection environment. The Rohingya refugee situation is rooted in decades of discrimination, statelessness and persecution in Myanmar, triggering successive waves of displacement to Bangladesh, including mass movements in 1978, 1991-1992 and 2017-2018, when more than 670,000 Rohingya fled violence in Rakhine State.

Nearly a decade after the 2017 influx, durable solutions remain out of reach. Conditions for safe and voluntary return are not in place, while renewed conflict in Myanmar continues to drive displacement and prolong refugee dependence on humanitarian assistance. By 2025, Bangladesh hosted more than 1.14 million Rohingya refugees with a 12.8 per cent increase over the previous year, placing further pressure on an already stretched response.[2] At the same time, humanitarian resources did not keep pace with growing needs. UNHCR's operational budget for Bangladesh fell by 7.1 per cent between 2024 and 2025, despite increasing refugee numbers and sustained dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Bangladesh is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention; legal and administrative constraints related to statelessness and lack of formal legal

2 UNHCR, Asia and Pacific, Bangladesh





59 per cent of requirements unfunded

In 2025, the funding gap stood at **59 per cent** of assessed requirements, leaving the response increasingly stretched as needs continued to rise.



More refugees, fewer resources

The Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh grew by **17.15 per cent** (**172,442**) between 2024 and 2025, while UNHCR Bangladesh's operational budget fell by 7.1 per cent in 2025 alone, compared with 2024.



Deteriorating shelter conditions undermine safety and dignity

88 per cent of refugee camp households reported deteriorating shelter conditions and limited capacity to self-repair.



Newly arrived households need suitable land and safe shelter

Nearly all new arrivals lack allocated shelter, exposing them to broader protection and safety risks. Shared, rented or self-built accommodation leaves families facing overcrowding, reduced privacy and, in some locations, landslide hazards.



Few alternatives to humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance remained the primary source of support for most Rohingya households in 2025. Around **35 per cent** of Rohingya households relied entirely on humanitarian aid, while most others combined informal income, borrowing, and other coping strategies to meet basic needs. These additional sources do not necessarily provide a secure alternative to aid. Statelessness, movement restrictions and exclusion from formal employment limit opportunities for self-reliance.

status shape daily protection risks and limit access to rights and remedies.

Statelessness is a vulnerability multiplier. Rohingya refugees face severe restrictions on movement outside the camps, and are largely excluded from formal employment, have limited access to national welfare systems and are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance for protection, shelter, water, health care and education. Limited recognition of camp-issued family documentation further restricts autonomy and access to support outside the camps. This makes funding reductions particularly consequential, as Rohingya refugees have few alternatives to humanitarian services and safeguards.

The Rohingya refugee situation is unfolding amid simultaneous reductions in humanitarian support for refugees and international development assistance to Bangladesh. National health, welfare and social-protection systems have already limited capacity and are under pressure to meet the needs of Bangladeshi citizens. Humanitarian funding risk creating gaps that overstretched national systems cannot readily absorb. While national capacity is constrained, refugees' dependence on humanitarian assistance also reflects policy and legal restrictions that limit access to formal employment, freedom of movement, education and national services. Sustained humanitarian and development financing therefore remains essential, alongside measures that progressively expand refugees' rights and opportunities for self-reliance, and strengthen services for refugees and host communities alike.

Humanitarian assistance remained the primary source of support for most Rohingya households in 2025. Around 35 per cent of Rohingya households were entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance to survive, while the remaining households depended on a combination of humanitarian aid, informal income sources, borrowing, and other coping strategies.[3] However, given severe restrictions on movement, employment and livelihoods, these additional sources are generally insufficient to meet basic needs independently, meaning that most households remain highly vulnerable to any disruption or reduction in humanitarian support.

At the same time, 88 per cent of refugee camp households reported deteriorating shelter conditions and limited capacity to self-repair.[4] Unsafe or deteriorating shelter conditions are not only a basic-needs issue; theycan increase exposure to insecurity, gender-based violence, extortion and other abuses.

Newly arrived households faced particularly acute protection concerns. Since late 2023, more than 155,000 refugees have arrived from Myanmar, and almost none have been allocated their own shelter. Many stay with relatives or friends (38 per cent), others rent limited space from host communities (28 per cent), or construct shelters in marginal areas highly exposed to landslides and other environmental hazards (19 per cent). Overcrowding, reduced privacy and insecure tenure create conditions that heighten protection risks. Land availability for safe shelter remains one of the most significant protection challenges facing new arrivals and is a key area for sustained advocacy. Shelter vulnerabilities are compounded by material deprivation. More than 80 per cent of assessed households in the camps lacked essential household items such as cooking utensils and water containers. Female-headed households are among those most affected by shelter-related vulnerabilities. Female-headed households are among those most affected by shelter-related vulnerabilities.[5]

Restrictive policies on livelihoods and education limit self-reliance, particularly for young people and women, increasing protection risks. Children make up 52 per cent of the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh. Boys face heightened exposure to child labour in various economic sectors, while girls are often confined to domestic work with limited opportunities for learning or skills development. Women and girls face specific protection risks linked to gender inequality, gender-based violence, child and forced marriage.

These risks are compounded by prolonged displacement. After nearly a decade in exile, many young Rohingya see few opportunities for higher education, decent work or meaningful participation in society. As funding pressures increasingly affect non-life-saving sectors, including livelihoods and advanced learning opportunities, already limited prospects for self-reliance continue to shrink, contributing to frustration, dependency and heightened vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking.

Organized criminal groups and armed groups compound insecurity in the camps and trafficking risks through recruitment, coercion, intimidation, extortion, violence and other abuses. Robbery, extortion and fear of night-time movement reduce refugees' sense of safety and access to services, while threats of retaliation and barriers to filing complaints discourage survivors from seeking help and undermine accountability. At the same time, the lack of legal recognition for refugee-led organizations also limits community-led protection, local partnerships and the sustainability of referral networks.

These and other interconnected protection gaps create conditions that traffickers can exploit through deceptive offers of work, assistance or onward movement, thus increasing exposure to trafficking among the Rohingya community.

3 Rohingya Refugee Response, Inter-Sector Needs Assessment ISNA 2025, 2026, p. 7.
4 Ibid., p. 7.
5 Ibid., p. 13.

From protection gaps to increased trafficking risks

Trafficking is a significant and growing protection risk in Cox's Bazar. Detected trafficking cases increased by 28 per cent between 2024 and 2025, rising from 319 to 407 cases.[6] However, trafficking remains significantly underreported due to stigma, fear of retaliation, mistrust of authorities, and limited awareness of reporting channels. As a result, many cases remain hidden and are only identified later, when refugees undertake dangerous onward movements, including sea journeys, or after reaching other countries in search of protection and solutions.

Forced labour was the most frequently detected form of exploitation, alongside domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced recruitment. In 2025, men and boys accounted for 71 per cent of identified victims, while women and girls represented 29 per cent. Overall, children represented 17 per cent of detected victims, up from around 14 per cent in 2024. This highlights that trafficking affects all demographic groups while exposing children to particularly acute protection risks.[7]

6 Protection Sector Cox's Bazar, Anti-Trafficking Working Group, Human Trafficking Analysis Dashboard, January-December 2025,

7 Ibid



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Detected trafficking cases increased by 28 per cent

Detected trafficking cases in Cox's Bazar rose from **319 in 2024** to **407 in 2025**, an increase of **28 per cent**. These figures do not fully capture the scale of trafficking or its dynamics. Stigma, fear of retaliation, and barriers to reporting leave many cases hidden.



Children account for a growing share of trafficking victims

Children's share of detected trafficking victims rose from around **14 per cent** in 2024 to **17 per cent** in 2025. Children make up 52 per cent of the Rohingya refugee population. Limited access to education, skill development and safe opportunities compound young people's exposure to violence and exploitation. Child-sensitive identification, referrals and safe learning opportunities remain essential.



Forced labour was the most frequently detected form

Other detected forms included domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced recruitment.

Recruitment is often embedded in everyday relationships and survival pressures: 40 per cent of victims, especially women and girls, were recruited by people known to them, while false promises of work were a major recruitment method.[8]

Restrictions in access to the labour market combined with reduced livelihoods funding matter because traffickers often exploit economic desperation. When safe and lawful income opportunities are limited, false promises of work, movement or debt repayment can become more persuasive.

Mental health and psychosocial support are also central to prevention and recovery. Deteriorating mental wellbeing, hopelessness, social isolation and unresolved trauma can increase vulnerability to risky onward movement, exploitation and trafficking. Moreover, when trauma support is insufficient, abuse may go unidentified, survivors may receive less support and risks of re-trafficking can increase.

Trafficking-related protection risks also extend beyond the refugee camps. For Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, restrictions on access to territory and increasing incidents of refoulement (affecting 4,808 people in 2025) further limit access to international protection.[9] When people fleeing violence or persecution are unable to access safety through regular channels, they may feel compelled to rely on smugglers in search of protection elsewhere. Many then embark on dangerous journeys towards countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. These smuggling arrangements can quickly evolve into situations of trafficking, particularly when individuals are deceived, coerced, trapped in debt, or otherwise brought under the control of abusive actors to be exploited for forced labour, sexual exploitation or other purposes.

8 Ibid

9 UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2025, p. 4.

A shrinking response against the rising needs

UNHCR and partners help reduce trafficking risks by keeping Rohingya refugees documented, visible and connected to protection and assistance. Registration, legal aid, health care, education, child protection, gender-based violence services, shelter, water and sanitation, community outreach and livelihood support are safeguards that help prevent exploitation, identify people at risk and support survivors.

Despite growing financial constraints, UNHCR Bangladesh continued to deliver protection services at scale in 2025. It registered 177,433 people, provided identification documents to 205,142 refugees and asylum-seekers, provided legal aid to 34,769 people, and delivered protection services to 1,177,962 people.[10] It also supported 501,796 children through child protection programmes and reached 224,674 people through gender-based violence services.[11]

Protection service quality remained at standard, with mitigation measures including increased refugee and host-community engagement, partner consolidation, integrated protection approaches and localization. While these measures helped preserve the quality of

10 Ibid., p. 11.
11 Ibid., p. 15, 17.



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Water and sanitation facilities struggle to keep pace

Population growth increased pressure on existing WASH infrastructure and services, with an average of 21 people sharing each latrine. Facilities have not expanded sufficiently to meet growing needs, while prolonged drought has further constrained water availability. Maintaining services must be accompanied by capacity to serve a growing population.

Mental health and psychosocial support is under pressure

Prioritization of life-saving assistance has reduced preventive mental health and psychosocial activities, particularly for adolescents. Sustaining support for coping skills and well-being remains essential, alongside services that help identify distress and abuse and connect people to protection and care.

Documentation remains a vital gateway to protection

Despite financial constraints, UNHCR provided identification documents to **205,142 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2025**, helping them remain visible and access assistance and protection.

core services, maintaining service standards should not be equated with meeting all needs or expanding coverage in a context of growing needs and population pressures.

Access to legal identity and documentation remains one of the most critical safeguards for Rohingya refugees. Despite significant funding pressures, UNHCR and partners continued to help individuals maintain access to assistance and reduce risks linked to statelessness, exclusion, and insecure legal status. Sustaining these gains is critical. Further cuts would jeopardize a gateway protection service on which many other interventions depend, creating ripple effects across the response and increasing the vulnerability of refugees who already face significant barriers to exercising their rights and accessing support.

Yet the response is increasingly stretched. In 2025, the funding gap stood at 59 per cent of assessed requirements.[12] The impact of funding constraints is not reflected solely in reduced service outputs. Through prioritization, efficiency measures and resource shifts, UNHCR and partners have maintained many core services despite major financial pressures. However, growing needs, including large-scale new arrivals, have increased demand on health, education, shelter, water and sanitation systems. Funding constraints have been felt most acutely in preventive and resilience-building interventions, including mental health support, livelihoods opportunities, environmental risk reduction and other activities that help reduce trafficking and wider protection risks before harm occurs.

For example, in the health sector, despite the investments in health infrastructure and the rollout of the General Health Card, since late 2023, the funding constraints have led to prioritization of life-saving assistance and a reduction of preventive activities. These included adolescent-focused mental health and psychosocial activities supporting coping skills, emotional regulation and problem-solving. At the same time, the number of psychologists and community para-counsellors remains insufficient to provide adequate psychosocial counselling for children and adolescents.[13] Sustaining and strengthening such services is important not only for well-being but also for protection outcomes, as they provide opportunities for confidential help-seeking, early recognition of distress or abuse and referral to further assistance.

In other sectors, the effects of funding constraints have been compounded by rising needs. In January 2025, UNHCR transferred WASH responsibilities in five camps to UNICEF and assumed responsibility for two camps from IOM, without interruption to services. The resulting smaller operational footprint partly explains lower UNHCR expenditure. At the same time, rapid population growth in some camp areas following new arrivals increased demand for services. In several

12 UNHCR, Bangladesh Funding Update - 2025

13 UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2025, p. 24, 26; UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2024, p. 20, 21.



locations, infrastructure has not expanded at the same pace as demand, resulting in more people relying on the same facilities. Climate-related pressures, including longer and more intense dry seasons, have further increased challenges associated with access to safe water, which averaged 23 litres per person per day across all camps, down from 33 litres in 2024.[14]

UNHCR education funding covered 47 per cent of needs in 2025, limiting learning spaces and programmes for children and adolescents.[15] However, the decline in education funding partly reflects the transfer of 958 learning facilities and related activities from UNHCR to UNICEF and UNESCO in 2024, together with associated donor funding. Education for school-aged children was largely maintained, while pre-primary education was scaled back. Lower UNHCR expenditure therefore does not necessarily indicate a proportional reduction in education services.

The funding picture is not only about reductions. In some sectors, targeted fundraising efforts helped protect critical services. For example, gender-based violence programming was prioritized and expanded despite broader financial pressures. Nevertheless, these gains have not been sufficient to offset broader and increasing pressures on the protection environment, particularly in the context of increasing arrivals, overcrowding and growing humanitarian needs.

The cumulative effect of these reductions extends beyond individual sectors.
Even where core services have been maintained, reduced investment in prevention, resilience and future opportunities can increase vulnerability over time. As pressures grow across protection, assistance and community-based services, risk factors associated with trafficking, exploitation and other protection harms become more pronounced, reinforcing the need to sustain a core set of preventive and protective interventions.

14 UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2025, p. 24, 26; UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2024, p. 20, 21.
15 UNHCR, Annual Report Bangladesh 2025, p.9.

Key priorities for continued interventions in Bangladesh include:

- Provide sustained, flexible and predictable funding to ensure that UNHCR and partners have the personnel, operational capacity and resources needed to maintain an integrated protection response.
- Maintain registration and documentation so Rohingya refugees remain visible and able to access assistance and protection.
- Sustain legal aid, legal awareness and referral pathways for survivors and people at risk.
- Protect mental health and psychosocial support services that strengthen resilience, wellbeing and community protection.
- Help identify trauma, abuse and trafficking indicators.
- Preserve education, child protection and safe spaces for children and adolescents.
- Maintain gender-based violence prevention and response, including safe reporting channels.
- Enhance capacity for trafficking identification, case management and referrals, including coordination between protection actors and services supporting survivors.
- Prioritize safe land and shelter for new arrivals, sustain water and sanitation services as the population grows, and expand livelihood and education opportunities that reduce vulnerability to exploitation. Strengthen community outreach on trafficking risks, false job offers and risky onward movement.
- Reinforce border monitoring, protection from refoulement and regional referral pathways along routes used by Rohingya refugees.



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Conclusion

The evidence from Bangladesh reinforces an important lesson for humanitarian action: protection is one of the most effective investments in trafficking prevention. Funding reductions affect not only individual services, but also the interconnected safeguards that help Rohingya refugees access fundamental rights, meet essential needs, seek assistance and remain protected from exploitation and abuse.

Registration and documentation, legal aid, health care, education, child protection, gender-based violence services and community outreach all contribute to preventing, identifying and responding to trafficking. Humanitarian actors continue to adapt and prioritize under severe resource constraints, but these efforts cannot fully compensate for growing needs, reduced investment in prevention and resilience, and the cumulative erosion of opportunities, coping capacities and hope among refugees.

Preventing and responding to trafficking requires stronger protection, expanded opportunities and solutions for refugees. Sustained, flexible and predictable funding is therefore essential to preserve the protection environment, reduce trafficking risks, and contribute to safer communities and stronger systems for upholding rights and the rule of law.

The message from Bangladesh is clear: when protection is weakened, exposure and vulnerability to trafficking risks rise. Investing in protection is investing in prevention.



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How humanitarian funding constraints can compound trafficking risks for Rohingya refugees

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