

Rohingya refugees fled violence including widespread gender-based violence (GBV) against both females and males, which inflicted lasting trauma on the population. In Bangladesh, the challenging living conditions in the camps exposes them to GBV risks, scarce livelihood opportunities, sexual exploitation, trafficking, child marriages and forced marriages.

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

**Facilities in the Camps**

Ensuring access to support services for GBV survivors, as well as safe spaces and facilities for community engagement is important for the prevention of, and response to GBV in the camps. 47 service points across 17 camps provide GBV case management, psychosocial services and referrals for individuals who need support. Women and Girl’s Safe Spaces provide a sanctuary for female refugees in a safe, confidential, and comfortable environment, and Community Engagement Centres engage men and boys on GBV prevention and response. A safe house is available for GBV survivors and their family members at risk until a solution is found for their situation. The Community Based Safe Shelter initiative provides immediate safety for survivors with other refugees who voluntarily host them in their shelters.



Rohingya Girl Shine graduates after completing the comprehensive and evidence-based programme to develop skills, knowledge, social networks, and self-confidence. © UNHCR

**SASA! Together**

The SASA! Together community mobilization approach seeks to instigate proactive roles among participants in preventing violence against women; it is implemented by both UNHCR (15 camps) and UNFPA . Over 800 refugee community activists, leaders, and health actors, including 400 women, completed the first phase of training by the end of 2021. In 2022, SASA! activists and leaders are preparing to engage with their community through various activities including community level sessions, during the second phase of this project .

**Male Engagement**

Involving men and boys is an important part of the prevention and response to GBV. UNHCR’s Male Role Model project carefully identifies and works with men and youth who already avoid violence in their own lives, demonstrate positive relationships and hold gender equitable beliefs. The project influences them to become increasingly capable and influential role models within their communities. Role Models undergo continuous training and mentoring.

**Girl Shine**

The evidence-based Girl Shine curriculum is designed to give young Rohingya girls the skills, knowledge, social networks, and self-confidence to help protect themselves from GBV as they navigate through adolescence and beyond. Girl Shine was launched in September 2021 in ten camps and expanded to three additional camps in 2022.

**GBV Volunteers and Community Groups**

Volunteers and community groups work within the refugee community to find ways to address GBV risks, as well as confront stigma and create community support for survivors to increase their protection. Volunteer groups receive GBV training to assist with identification and referral, as well as to educate the community and individuals about available support, confidentiality, and access to services.

**Coordination**

UNHCR and partners work closely with other UN agencies and NGOs as part of the Inter Agency Coordination Group (ISCG), and government authorities, to strengthen GBV prevention, mitigation, and response.



A refugee volunteer provides information during an awareness raising session for women.© UNHCR/Amos Halder

**Bhasan Char**

An initial needs assessment on the island found that intimate partner violence is a serious issue. A GBV referral mechanism has been set up, including the case management support. Health staff and government law enforcement agencies have participated in trainings. Refugee men and boys have been engaged and trained as volunteer Male Role Models to conduct prevention activities in the communities. UNHCR and partners opened a Women and Girl’s Safe Space. Women, girls, and gender diverse individuals still need more safe entry points to report GBV cases.

**KEY FIGURES COX'S BAZAR CAMPS**



**1,025**

Community volunteers for GBV response and prevention



**31**

GBV service points



**61**

GBV case workers and supervisors



**369**

Participants in the Girl Shine project



**902**

SASA! Together community activists and leaders



**78**

Male Role Models for GBV prevention



**4,315**

Female dignity kits distributed in acute emergencies



**57**

Community groups for GBV prevention and response



**333**

Service providers trained on GBV response and prevention



**1,036**

Refugees benefiting from psychosocial services



**96,421**

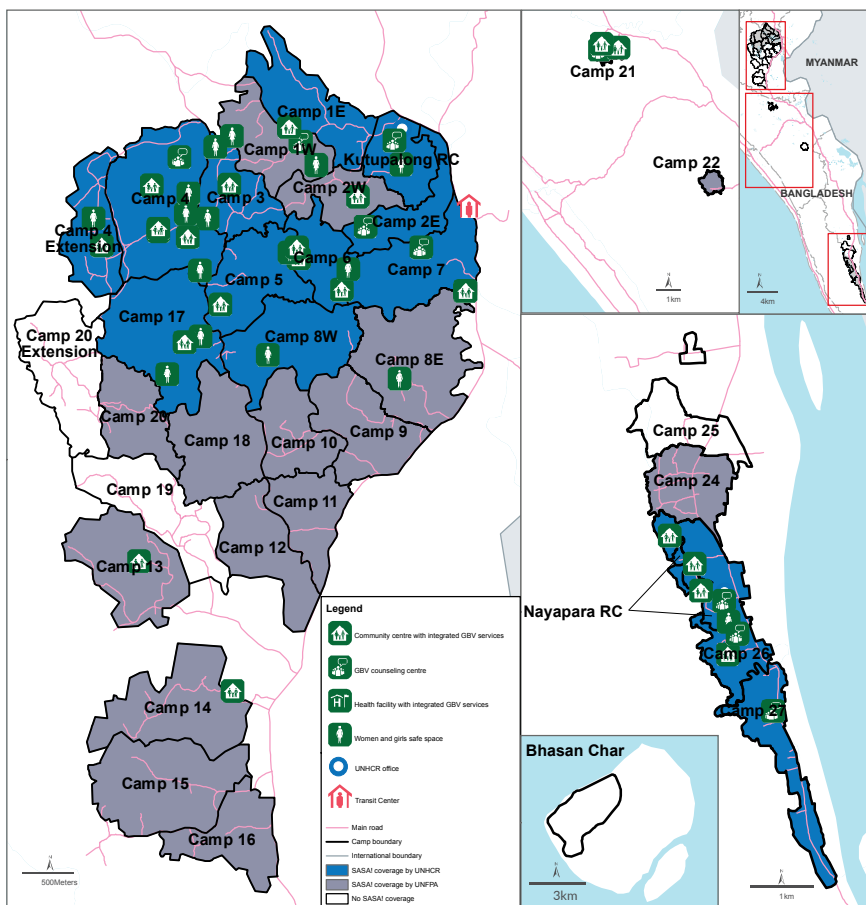
Refugees reached by community-led messaging



**2,368**

Women and girls participating in skills and empowerment programmes

**GBV response service points & SASA! Together prevention programme presence**



**KEY FIGURES BHASAN CHAR**



**8**

Community volunteers for GBV response and prevention



**37**

Refugee volunteers trained on GBV



**3**

GBV service points



**2,036**

Refugees reached by community-led messaging on protection risks