



Rohingya refugees fled violence, including widespread gender-based violence (GBV), which inflicted lasting trauma on the population. In Bangladesh, movement restriction policies, overcrowded areas, scarce self-reliance, and limited educational opportunities in the camps contribute to increased risks of GBV, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and forced/child marriages.

KEY ACTIVITIES



GBV Facilities in the Camps

Ensuring free access to services, safe spaces and facilities for community engagement is paramount. UNHCR monitors 48 service points across 19 camps, providing GBV case management, psychosocial services, and diverse prevention activities to individuals who need support. Women and Girls Safe Spaces, Integrated, and Community Centers provide a safe, confidential, and comfortable environment to women, girls, men, and boys. UNHCR monitors an emergency safe shelter and 15 community-based safe shelters for GBV survivors at high-level risk until a sustainable solution is identified.



SASA! Together



A Community Leader is facilitating a discussion using SASA! Together tool of communication among the male community members in Camp 3 ©UNHCR

The SASA! Together is an evidence based and structured community mobilization approach that seeks to instigate proactive roles among the refugee participants in preventing violence against women. It is implemented by both UNHCR (15 camps) and UNFPA. At the end of the first implementation phase, refugee activists and leaders have shown an enhanced capacity to facilitate community discussions by scoring satisfaction in measuring quality activities, facilitation skills, and community engagement. In the first quarter of 2023, 841 activists and leaders - half female- are engaged in their community, building capacities, and delivering critical messages through structured and informal interventions. Upon completion of the first phase, SASA! Together is currently in its second implementation phase in Cox's Bazar. The Awareness Phase (second phase) aims to raise awareness of men's power over women and the community's silence. Concerning the Institutional strengthening strategy, 61 allies (Health workers) from 15 health service providers are working with the SASA! Together methodology in 29 health facilities. They are active and engaged with their staff within the organizations to shift organizational practices that prevent gender-based violence both within workplace and refugee community.



Male Engagement Activities



Male role models of camp 17 are engaging youth through sports under the MRM approach. ©UNHCR

UNHCR and its partners have implemented the “Male Role Model (MRM)” approach in GBV prevention in 08 camps since January 2018. At the inception, a series of Focus Group Discussions were carried out with refugee women, girls, men & boys to identify the gender norms and negative masculine thoughts contributing to GBV incidents. MRM takes place in 8 camps, additionally in Bashan Char, where 10 dedicated and trained workforce is engaged. Presently 242 active models are engaged as agents for change in the community to prevent GBV. MRM outreach community sessions debate the impact and consequences of polygamy, child marriage, toxic masculinity, dowry, and intimate partner violence, representing 84% of all GBV incidents reported in the camps. The outreach sessions significantly impact building healthy family relationships, gender equity, and equal gender division of family roles.



Girl Shine



A facilitator at the Women and Girl Friendly Space is conducting an interacting session using pictures ©Shiju/Relief International

The Girl Shine program is implemented by UNHCR in 16 camps, through 3 partners – BRAC, RI, and RTMI. Partners enrolled 776 adolescent girls and 730 caregivers between January and March 2023. Ongoing cohorts will be concluded in May 2023. Girl Shine is an evidence-based and contextualized curriculum-based model that seeks to support, protect, and build on the potential and power of girls in humanitarian settings. The program included male and female caregivers in discussions about gender norms, girls' safety, positive parenting, and other topics. The 2nd cycle of the Girl Shine program was completed in December 2022. In total, 710 girls graduated from the Girl Shine program after maintaining a 70% attendance rate. In the same cohort, 690 caregivers completed the caregiver curriculum, demonstrating promising results in reducing child abuse. In 2023, the program aims to reach 2,000 adolescent girls, as well as their male/female caregivers. The first cycle of 2023 is currently ongoing, and the second cycle will commence in July 2023.



GBV Volunteers and Outreach Prevention Activities



GBV volunteers are at a capacity building training learning on the “Facilitation of Awareness Raising Session ©Mustafizur Rahman/BRAC

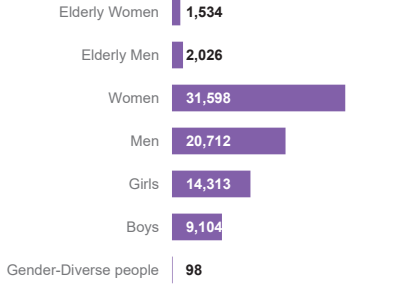
Volunteers and community groups work within the refugee community, motivating debates to reduce systemic discrimination, reduce unbalance in power relationships, and the impact of harmful gender norms. Specialized volunteers receive GBV training to assist community members with safe identification and confidential referral of individual cases and work to raise awareness in the communities on available services, GBV Referral Pathways, and reporting systems. A set of pictorial images related to preventing Child Marriage, protecting refugees from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and eradicating intimate partner violence was jointly developed with refugees to motivate debates among communities and build capacities among refugee leaders on how to fight against GBV.

Total beneficiaries

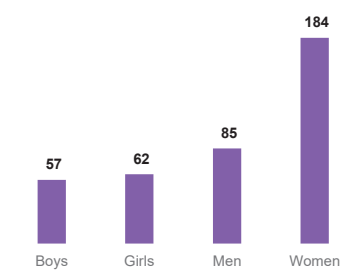
79,312

As of 31 Mar 2023, 79,312 individuals participated in multiple GBV prevention and risk mitigation activities focusing on awareness raising, empowering women and girls, and eradicating gender-based violence through evidence-based programs and outreach activities.

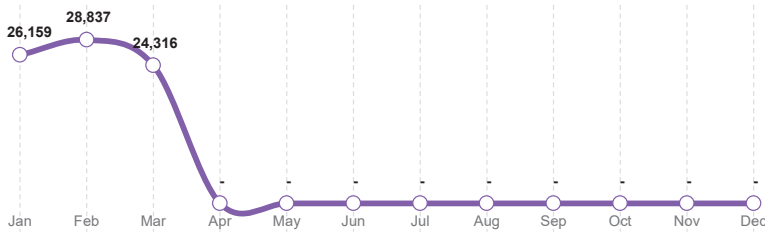
Age and gender



Persons with disabilities



Monthly trend (beneficiaries)



Geographic overview (beneficiaries by camp)



Key achievements

Progress against annual target

