



An adolescent Committee member, Sobur, painted at the Camp-17 RI MPC Wall.

Photo Credit: Ashique Mahmud Tuhin (CPA)

More than 500,000 Rohingya children have been residing in different camps of Cox's Bazar facing many challenges and protection risks. Limited education opportunities and other child development activities has made many Rohingya girls and boys experiencing different forms of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Child Protection has ensured that the best interest of the child and best interest procedures are emphasized when implementing child protection program which includes individual case management, psychosocial support, activities for adolescents and parents (life skills training and positive parenting sessions), awareness raising activities, capacity building, and community-based child protection mechanism.

## KEY ACTIVITIES



### Community-based Child Protection Mechanisms



CBCPC making announcement to the community for monsoon preparedness supported by TdH ©TdH

UNHCR and partners have established and provided technical support to different child protection (CP) community-based structures in 21 camps comprising of community-based child protection committee, adolescent clubs, parents and caregiver groups to ensure safety and access to specific services for children including creation of child protection networks. The community-based mechanism is critical to identify children at risk and refer cases to relevant service providers, provide peer support, trace missing children, raise community awareness on child protection, identify child protection risks and coping mechanisms, and respond to emergencies to ensure the safety and well-being of children. UNHCR works with four child protection partners: CODEC, Save the Children, Relief International and Terre des Hommes.



### Case Management and Psychosocial Support



A structured psychosocial support session provided by SCI to a Rohingya boy group in camp 21 ©SCI, Julekha Akter

UNHCR partners work closely with community-based CP structures to identify and ensure that children with specific needs or protection risks are referred to relevant service providers and received individual case management. In Q1 2023, 688 Unaccompanied and Separated Children and children-at-risk were identified, and 100% of them have access to individual case management support. 11,139 children, caregivers and parents from Rohingya and host communities have received structured and non-structured psychosocial support. Multiple good parenting skills training sessions were provided to 1,779 parents and caregivers. Most child protection cases reported were related to neglect, physical abuse, child marriage, underaged parents, abduction/kidnapping violence, and psychological distress. Others were linked to child labour and trafficking. Children leaving the camps to work was also reported, as a result of inadequate livelihood opportunities for their parents or caregivers and lack of livelihood programmes for adolescents. Partners have started implementing best interest assessment (BIA) and best interest determination (BID) to support UNHCR's durable solutions determinations.



 **Awareness raising and community outreach activities**



In Q1 2023, awareness raising sessions and community outreach volunteers, working through partners and community-based structures, reached 10,585 children and adults from the Rohingya and host communities including persons with disabilities. The sessions covered key topics such as child abuse, road safety, monsoon preparedness, drug prevention, child trafficking, child marriage prevention and lost/missing children mitigation measures.

SCI has organized an awareness raising with CBCPC members on prevention and response to child trafficking & drug addiction using community-based approach at SCI MPC in KTPRC, ©Julekha Akter

 **Capacity building**



Capacity-building of community-based CP structures and partner staff is accomplished through training of volunteers and case workers on topics related to child protection, child development, child rights, case management, referral pathways and anti-humiliating punishment. In Q1, 252 Rohingya and host community volunteers representing different community-based structures received trainings.

Training on child rights and child protection in Camp 1E. ©Anowar Faisal

 **Safe Spaces for Children**



A total of 61 Multipurpose Centers in 21 camps have provided safe spaces for children and caregivers from Rohingya and refugee community. The children have access to learning and playing program which help them to develop their life skills and be able to have basic knowledge to protect themselves from different forms of abuses. The centers also provide safe space for individual case management where children can be confidentially interviewed in friendly environment.

**Support on Bhasan Char**

UNHCR leads the Protection Sector on the island and implements child protection activities including child protection case management, child-friendly spaces, adolescents clubs, community-based child protection committees, parents and caregivers' committees and general child protection awareness sessions where the community is sensitized on child rights and child protection, Programme activities are implemented by UNHCR partner CODEC with technical support from UNHCR.

**Host Community Support**

Children, parents, and caregivers from host communities have equal access to child protection activities provided at the multi-purpose centres. Community-based CP committees, adolescent clubs, parents and caregivers' committees were also established, and these structures engage in planning, implementation, assessment and evaluation of child protection activities in the host communities

