224,674
Individuals reached through GBV specialized services

213,737
Individuals reached through SASA! Together

2,238
Women, girls and LGBTI individuals benefiting from Empowerment and Leadership Program (WELP)

Girl Shine Graduation ceremony, Camp 8 ©Ste Chakma, AAB

Key achievements

In 2025, UNHCR successfully monitored 100% of GBV facilities, encompassing **56** service points across **18** camps, **6** host communities, and Bhasan Char. These facilities provide case management, psychosocial support, and prevention activities. **Women and Girls Safe Spaces**, **Integrated Community Centers**, and **Community Centers** offered safe and confidential environments for survivors. UNHCR also managed one emergency shelter and 30 community-based safe shelters for high-risk GBV survivors. All survivors who reported incidents and sought assistance received mental health and psychosocial support, following a confidential, survivor-centered approach.

SASA! Together

UNHCR and its partners completed the first two phases of the SASA! Together approach in 2024 and initiated the **third phase, the Support Phase, in 2025.** This phase focuses on strengthening community support networks and building skills to prevent violence against women and girls. It empowers community members to unite in supporting women and girls experiencing or at risk of violence, helps couples work to change harmful behaviors, and promotes accountability for those who perpetrate violence. The Support Phase also encourages reflection on non-violent alternatives and fosters mutual support throughout the process of change. From January to December, UNHCR and its partners reached a total of **213,737** individuals through door-to-door outreach.

Male Engagement Activities

UNHCR and its partners implemented the **Male Role Model (MRM)** approach across 14 camps, training **789** **men and boys** through a comprehensive 30-hour program focused on gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). As of June 2025, **444** **trained Male Role Models** facilitated structured prevention dialogues, reaching **169,556** **men**, **55,667** **boys**, and **11** **non-binary individuals** across the 14 camps. These sessions covered critical topics such as toxic masculinity, child marriage, dowry practices, and the harmful effects of intimate partner violence, fostering meaningful dialogue and reflection within the community.

Volunteers and Outreach Prevention

240 **trained GBV volunteers** led awareness sessions across the camps, using structured posters and pictorial tools co-developed with refugees. These materials addressed topics such as **child marriage prevention, PSEA, IPV**, and types of GBV, improving understanding of **referral pathways** and available services. Volunteers also supported safe case identification and confidential referrals, while community groups actively challenged harmful gender norms, power imbalances, and systemic discrimination. The initiative received positive feedback from refugees, highlighting its effectiveness in enhancing **GBV prevention** and response.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

Mavis Abo
Senior Community-Based Protection Officer
abo@unhcr.org

Girl Shine and Girl Shine Stars

In 2025, the Girl Shine program, implemented across 16 camps by UNHCR's partners. **3,640 adolescent girls and their caregivers** successfully graduated from two cohort. The program provided Life Skills and Early Marriage training, focusing on interpersonal skills development to empower adolescent girls against gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. The new curriculum specifically targets the prevention of early and child marriage, addressing root causes, raising awareness of associated risks, and offering viable alternatives. It empowers both married girls and those at risk, helping them understand and claim their rights.

Additionally, a **Peer Mentorship component** was introduced to strengthen the capacity of graduated participants, known as **"Girl Shine Stars"**. A total of **149 female youth** who graduated from the program are now serving as outreach volunteers, engaging their communities and promoting positive change.

Women's Empowerment and Leadership (WELP)

UNHCR launched WELP in January 2025 to strengthen the role of Rohingya women in community development and resilience-building. In collaboration with two implementing partners, the program offers skills training in areas such as beautification, electrical work, sewing, farming, and handicrafts. A formal financial education curriculum was introduced, delivered by newly engaged specialists. This training equips participants with essential financial literacy skills, including cash flow management, product pricing, income maximization, and responsible loan and debt management. The curriculum also emphasizes savings, investment, and entrepreneurship, empowering women to become role models within their communities. The program promotes a strong sense of ownership by involving women in program design and decision-making, ensuring cultural relevance and long-term sustainability. The initiative also fosters gender equity and encourages community-led action. In 2025, **2,238** women have graduated from of various skills training sessions.

Team Building Workshop of WSNG, and tree distribution among WSNG members, captured by Sukanna Barua/BRAC

Looking ahead, UNHCR aims to expand the program by collaborating with the Livelihood sector and partnering with local organizations, government bodies, and UN agencies to build sustainable, women-led networks and further strengthen community resilience.

Gender Equality & Inclusion and PSEAH

UNHCR, in collaboration with Bandhu Social Welfare Society, co-leads the Gender-Diverse Population Working Group (GDPWG) under the Protection Sector. The GDPWG aims to enhance service mapping for the most vulnerable groups and raise awareness among stakeholders about the specific needs and rights of gender-diverse individuals. As part of its GBV mainstreaming and inclusion strategy, UNHCR continued to strengthen capacity-building efforts focused on gender inclusion and the protection of LGBTIQA+ individuals.

UNHCR ensured that all newly joined staff completed the mandatory online PSEA course, reaching full compliance. In addition, 333 staff took part in a 1.5-day training that introduced the updated learning package on PSEA and sexual harassment. UNHCR also organized the annual PSEA refresher, which brought together 25 PSEA focal points from 15 partner organizations and UNHCR.

Beyond its own staff, UNHCR supported partners and the PSEA Network in strengthening the skills of staff and volunteers on PSEA, raising awareness among community and handling individual SEA allegations.

Way Forward

- UNHCR and its partners will maintain a sustainable, community-owned approach to GBV service delivery, ensuring all facilities continue to provide comprehensive prevention, risk mitigation and response interventions. Our strategy emphasizes capacity-building of local structures to create lasting protection mechanisms.

- The Community-Driven Prevention Initiatives will be strengthened and enhanced using community-based methodology to empower the graduated participants, which includes SASA! Activists, Men's Role Models, Girl Shine Stars, and Women's Support Network groups are working to foster sustainable behavior change at the grassroots level and serve as a community-based platform for peer support, advocacy, and collective action within the refugee community.

- All programs incorporate train-the-trainer approaches and community leadership development to ensure continuity beyond direct implementation. By strengthening local response systems and empowering community-based protection structures, we aim to create sustainable solutions that reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance while maintaining quality GBV services.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Bangladesh

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

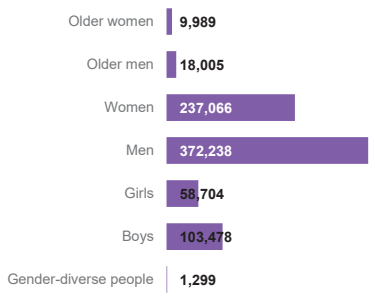
Factsheet | 31 Dec 2025

Total beneficiaries

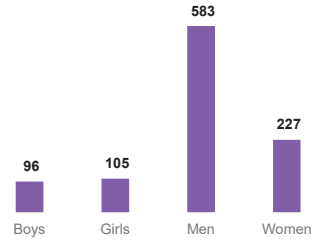
800,779 *

As of 31 Dec 2025, 800,779 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 programmes and outreach activities.tivities

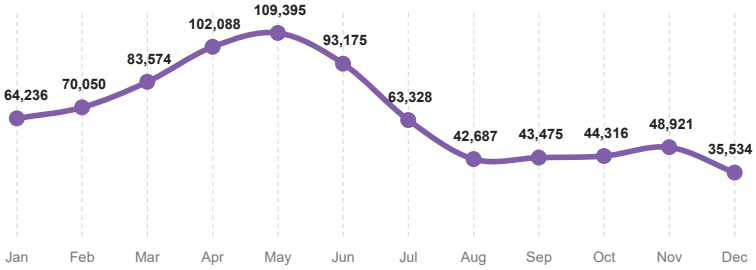
Age and gender



Persons with disabilities



Monthly trend (total beneficiaries by month)



Key achievements

Progress against **annual target**

	REACHED	TARGET
% of individuals trained on GBV and PSEA/SH (100%)	3,309	2,385
% of individuals reached through GBV outreach prevention activities (74%)	346,106	468,000
% of individuals who benefitted from structured skills and empowerment programming (99%)	2,238	2,270
% of participants in men and boys engagement programming (90%)	789	880
% of participants (adolescents and caregivers) in Girl Shine programming (94%)	3,640	3,870
% of individual reached through SASA! Together (89%)	213,737	240,000
% women and girls participating in Mentorship Program (100%)	458	320

Geographic overview (total beneficiaries by camp)

Contacts:

Romain Desclous, Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka, desclous@unhcr.org

Amber Mezbourian, Associate External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazaar, mezbouri@unhcr.org

Information Management Unit bgdcoim@unhcr.org

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Print date: 04 Feb 2026

Sources:UNHCR Partners (Activity Info)

Partners: AAB, Bandhu, BRAC

*The number of beneficiaries shown across the factsheets includes individuals who received multiple forms of assistance and does not represent the unique number of individuals assisted.

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including adidas AG, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., and Tanmeia Foundation.