

Bangladesh: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis

Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) working group for the Refugee Response in Cox's Bazar, August 2025



The GiHA Working Group in Cox's Bazar is a coordination mechanism to ensure gender equality is systematically integrated into all stages of humanitarian action for Rohingya refugees and host communities. It supports humanitarian actors to apply gender-responsive approaches aligned with global frameworks like the IASC Gender Policy, GBV Guidelines, and Gender with Age Marker (GAM).

Key Objectives

- Mainstream gender equality across preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making.
- Address the different needs and capacities of women, girls, men, boys, and gender-diverse individuals.
- Ensure inclusive programming that identifies intersectional vulnerabilities and mitigates them through gender transformative approaches.

Why Gender Matters in Humanitarian Contexts?

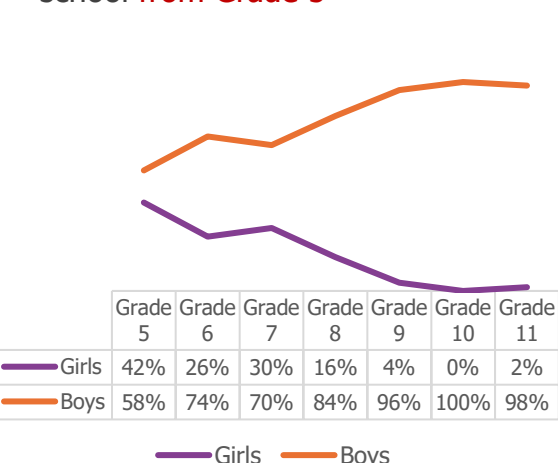
Crises worsen existing gender inequalities. Women and girls face unique risks like GBV and maternal health challenges, which are not homogenous in nature. A gender lens ensures equitable support, respects human rights, and improves overall response effectiveness through an intersectional lens.

GiHA WG members

Sector/Sub-sector	UN Agencies	NGOs	WLO/WROs	Other networks	Observer
10	11	6	4	6	1

Gender snapshot

More girls are dropping out of school **from Grade 5**



Source: Education Sector, 2025

Top 5 reasons Rohingya youths are dropping out of school

(refers to HHs containing members aged 15–24)

- 44% face **age related constraints**
- 40% face **economic constraints**
- 38% have **limited education opportunities**
- 27% lack **child protection facilities (including risk of child marriages)**
- 21% have **gender related concerns**

Source: ISNA 2024

Of the working age Rohingya refugees in the camps, only **8% are women**



Source: ISNA 2024

Vulnerability of women and girls

Women and girls face risks differently from men and boys

4.08% girls and **0.45% boys** are victims of child marriage*

93% of 546 respondents believed that there can be justified reasons for men to beat women**

86% of 546 respondents agreed that women should tolerate the violence for the sake of family**

There is a significant increase in GBV incidents on **physical assault, psych/emotional abuse, denial of resources, and rape** from April-June 2024 to July-September 2024.***

*Source: Child Protection situation monitoring, 2024

**Source: GiHA comparative gender analysis, 2022

***Source: GBV monitoring, 2nd and 3rd Quarter of 2024

Strategic advisory initiatives by GiHA working group for Rohingya response

1

ENSURING GAM CODE PROCESS

by peer review for JRP and ensuring JRP is informed by context-specific intersectional gender analyses.

2

ADVOCACY

by engaging stakeholders including the Government of Bangladesh, UNs, INGOs /NGOs, WLOs/ WROs etc. by observing International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism Campaign, Consultation with Camp-level CiCs and relevant stakeholders to increase awareness on key gender equality commitments and frameworks

3

INTER-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

coordination to ensure gender considerations in prioritizing all projects and programs.

4

CAPACITY BUILDING

of all WLOs/ WROs, and other stakeholders to foster leadership in coordination mechanisms.

Core strategies



Coordination



Technical advice, Guidance, and Capacity development



Assessments, Analysis, and Monitoring



Advocacy and Communications



Information sharing and Knowledge Management



Partnership and Collaboration



Advocacy for Gender-responsive Funding

Visit [Gender in Humanitarian Action / Rohingya Response](#) for more.

For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.



mehbuba@iscgcb.org

