

JOINT PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

510

Focus Group Discussion (persons reached)

165

Home Visits

634

Key Informant Interviews (persons reached)

59%

Men

41%

Women

10%

People with disabilities

	Female	Male
Children (0-17)	0%	1%
Adult (18-59)	34%	50%
Elderly (60+)	7%	8%

The Joint Protection Monitoring framework has been implemented by the Protection Sector since January 2022 to promote the systematic and regular collection, triangulation, and analysis of protection incidents and risks for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps. The Joint Protection Monitoring reports serve to inform protection programming and advocacy through a common and standardized evidence-based information collection. This report provides a better understanding of the protection situation in the camps through joint monitoring of the protection incidents and analysis of risks, threats, and vulnerabilities periodically. Six partners (UNHCR, IOM, IRC, DRC, OXFAM and HI) conduct protection monitoring as a core protection programme covering 33 camps and a total of 1,005,520* refugees. This report also reflects the contributions of Child Protection and GBV Sub-Sectors as well as of the Anti-Trafficking Working Group, Gender-Diverse Population Working Group and the Housing, Land and Property Technical Advisor.

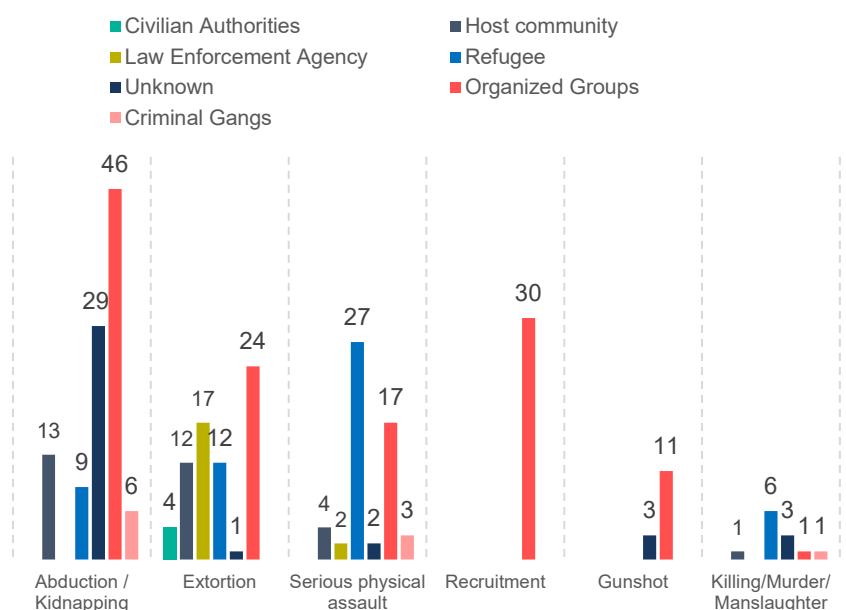
Executive summary: The overall number of serious security incidents during the second quarter of 2025 decreased by 29% in comparison to the previous quarter. Incidents of abductions and kidnappings however continued to be reported with a total of 103 cases and ransom demands ranging from BDT 20,000 to 500,000. A total of 12 killings were reported including two women who were killed by their husbands, in cases that may be classified as femicides. Recruitment activities -including through gatherings- persisted throughout the reporting period with reports of lists being collected for recruitment purposes. Concerns were raised by refugees on the legitimacy, transparency and accountability of an election process in the camps to select "the voice of the Rohingya" initiated by the Refugee Committee for Repatriation (RCPR) led by Dil Mohamed.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

284 serious security incidents¹ directly affecting 498 Rohingya refugees were recorded across all 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf during the second quarter of 2025. These included abduction/kidnapping (103), extortion (70), serious physical assault (55), recruitment² (30), gunshots/suspected use of firearms (14 as well as killing/murder/ manslaughter (12).

The number of **reported protection incidents** decreased by 29% together with the number of affected refugees (21%) in comparison to the first quarter of 2025. The overall improvement in security incidents is largely attributed to the continued truce among organized groups led by the Government of Bangladesh in November 2024. However, abductions and kidnapping remain highly reported as well as recruitment-related gatherings by organized groups. These meetings and gatherings, along with reports of lists being collected for recruitment, have raised concerns of the possible use of coercive tactics

Alleged perpetrator per category by incident



¹ For this report, the serious incidents collected are only related to the following categories: abduction/kidnapping, extortion, killing/murder/manslaughter, serious physical assault, gunshot/suspected use of firearms and recruitment. This last category was included for this report and will be monitored in the following Joint Protection Monitoring Reports.

² Cases of recruitment are linked to refugees being coerced to fight in Myanmar often linked to abduction cases or cases where ransom could not be paid. For child recruitment cases refer to the child protection section.

*Refugee Population in Cox's Bazar (excluding Bhasan Char). Update as of 30 June 2025 - UNHCR Data portal link available [here](#)

such as those reported in 2024³. Organized groups were responsible for 47% of the total number of incidents. Refugees were involved in 20% of all cases of physical assaults and extortion. Unknown perpetrators (14%) refers to cases of kidnapping and abduction where the profiles of those involved could not be established.

Killings slightly increased by 20% in comparison to the previous quarter; 12 killing incidents were verified, with only one attributed to an organized group. Two women were killed by their husbands during the reporting period in Camp 3 and Nayapara Registered Camp. A young man was stabbed to death when confronting refugee men who were allegedly harassing his sister in Camp 2E. Disputes between refugees over the use of a drain, a water point and a shop resulted in the killing of three refugees in separate incidents. The abduction of a host community member by individuals affiliated with the Saleh group resulted in the killing of one Saleh member when the abductee escaped on 14 June. The Alam group was allegedly responsible for the killing of a refugee on 16 June by gunshot and for the remaining three killings where the perpetrators' identity could not be established.

In June, there were reports and accounts of upcoming **elections** to select the "voice of the Rohingya". This was announced during meetings inside the camps by the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation (RCPR) led by Dil Mohammad⁴, raising serious concerns of credibility and legitimacy. There were reports of Dil Mohammad issuing direct and veiled threats to coerce people to support him. Refugees expressed concerns that Dil Mohammad or other candidates would be chosen through an unfair process, and that the Rohingya viewpoint would therefore be misrepresented and co-opted into the narrative of "repatriation".

Recruitment and refugee mobilization activities rose sharply between late April and June, with at least 71 recruitment-related meetings reported throughout the quarter: 24 in April 30 in May and 17 in June. These efforts increasingly focused on youth, educated refugees, former community leaders in Myanmar, and madrasa students, indicating a strategic targeting of influential groups. Meetings were reported in Camps 1E, 1W, 3, 4, 7, 8E, 8W, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 20Ext, 21, 24, 25 and Nayapara Registered Camp, with Camp 1E emerging as a central hub as RCPR has presence there. In some camps RCPR, led by Dil Mohammad, initiated block-level recruitment, compiled lists of individuals suspected to have ties with the Arakan Army, and hosted meetings where names and personal details were collected. Organized groups such as Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), also known as the Al Yaquin group, and other factions allegedly continue to forcibly recruit young men for military training in Myanmar. These individuals were often misled with promises of safety or shelter. Recruitment activities were highly reported in Camp 15, where residents said that some religious leaders are allegedly forming groups to facilitate military involvement in Myanmar. In Camp 21, the Al Yaquin group supposedly recruited new Rohingya individuals through community-level mediation involving monetary exchanges and then sending recruits to Myanmar. The group allegedly declared that Rohingya males aged 18 to 40 must go to Myanmar to fight the Arakan Army. Additionally, the Nobi Hossain group was said to be recruiting in Camp 21, through meetings to provide training and collecting a list of approximately 1,500 Rohingyas from all camps to send to Myanmar.

Through the meetings reported during April-July, both ARSA and Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) allegedly promoted the idea that every family should provide a young male for the war. In Camps 1W and 1E, for example, residents noted that forced recruitment, which had temporarily ceased, had escalated, with males as young as 12-years-old being targeted. In Camp 16, participants were said to be receiving threatening phone calls from various armed groups, demanding their sons join their operations. Some volunteers also reported receiving constant threats from organized groups.

Some of the strategic meetings were allegedly facilitated by majhis and religious leaders who also face threats and pressures if they do not comply with the organized groups' demands. Coercive tactics included photographing individuals with drugs, threatening families, and pressuring NGO volunteers to support these groups. New arrivals without established protection networks inside the camps were particularly vulnerable and were requested to pay BDT 2,000 to 7,000 (USD 16 to 57) to support organized groups. Allegedly, a permanent coordination hub, shared by RCPR, ARSA, RSO, and ARA, was established in one camp for planning and logistics.

While, in past quarters, recruitment activities were focused mainly on Ukhiya camps, incidents reported this quarter indicate that increased activity of organized groups in Teknaf camps. ARSA's meeting in Nayapara Registered Camp represents a possible expansion of efforts to organize meetings and collecting personal information from refugees.

Reports indicate recruitment efforts targeting children in the camps during the second quarter, with at least one credible report of a child being engaged to recruit peers and community members. While current activities appear to focus on physical training, there are concerning signals that some may eventually be drawn into cross-border violence. These trends raise serious protection concerns about child recruitment (see child protection section), exposure to militarized

³ All Joint-Protection Monitoring Reports are available at: <https://rohingyaresponse.org/sectors/coxs-bazar/protection/>

⁴ As previously reported, Dil Mohammad is an individual known to have long standing connections to the Myanmar Armed Forces -MAF- and who has been allegedly implicated in supporting NASACA clearance operations in the 1990s and in forced recruitment and trafficking in persons activities in 2024

environments, and the use of incentives to normalize affiliation with any of the organized groups linked to the armed groups in Myanmar.

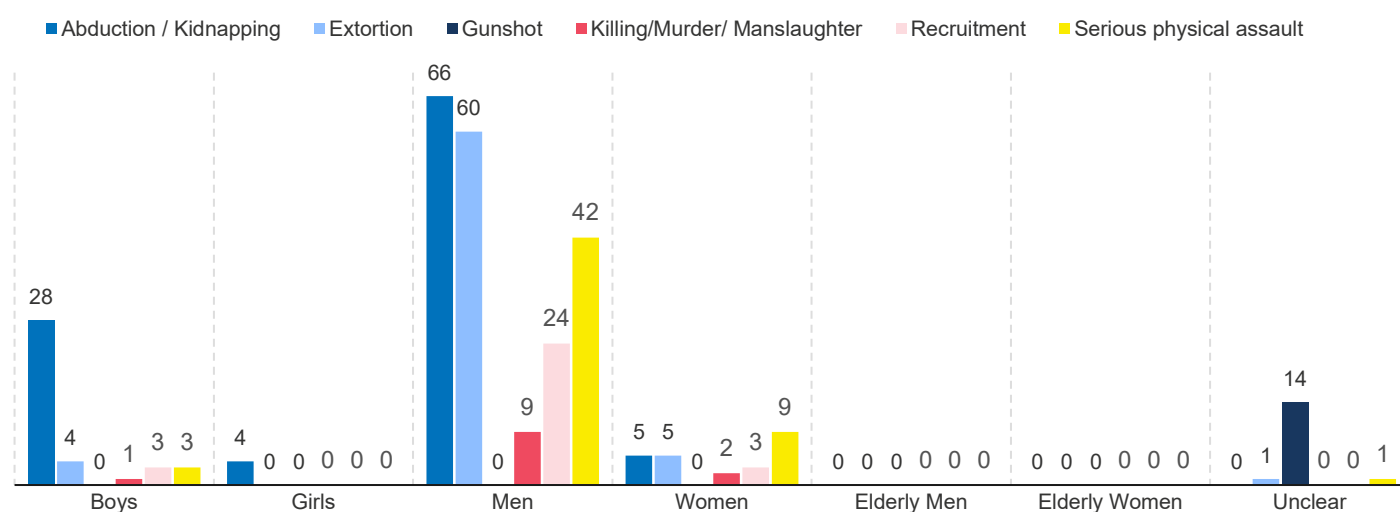
Incidents of **abductions and kidnappings** decreased by 41% compared to the previous quarter but continued to be the security incident most reported with accounts of children and young men being targeted because of relatives living abroad or perceptions of their financial means. Ransom demands ranged from BDT 20,000 to 500,000 (USD 165 to 4,100) with families often coerced to pay via mobile banking. Some victims believed neighbours or informants may be tipping off kidnappers. Perpetrators reportedly include host community members, local criminals, refugees, and organized groups. Abductions remain transactional in nature, with ransom amounts often negotiated based on the victim's family's ability to pay. In Camp 1W, for example, a 20-year-old male who was kidnapped and held for a ransom of BDT 500,000 (USD 4,100) was released after his family paid BDT 300,000 (USD 2,460). In Camp 21, a resident was kidnapped from the Palongkhali area and released after his family paid BDT 50,000 (USD 410) while, in Camp 16, a 15-year-old boy was kidnapped and was released after his family paid BDT 70,000 (USD 575). The majority of incidents were recorded in Ukhiya camps with a total of 81 cases (79%) while Teknaf reported 22 incidents. Most refugees were released after paying ransoms.

The number of **serious physical assault** incidents decreased by 53% compared to the first quarter of 2025. Most of the serious physical assault incidents during the reporting period were linked to disputes either between refugees themselves or between refugees and members of the host community. These disputes were often triggered by tensions over access to shared resources such as water points, land, and rental spaces. Three reported killings directly resulted from physical confrontations between refugees. Victims of physical violence were often deliberately targeted for assault, with some suffering severe beatings. In some cases, individuals were forced to flee their homes due to threats or violence from organized groups or criminal groups. Reports of **extortion**, however, increased by 27%, with reported forced mediation mechanisms led by host community linked to extortion and physical abuse. Extortion remained a systematic method of control and economic exploitation in the refugee camps, primarily driven by organized groups, followed by criminal groups.

Teknaf camps continued to face chronic insecurity including abductions (often involving host community actors), ransom demands, extortions, and frequent night robberies. Residents accused APBn of abuse during patrols, and also of collusion with dominant local groups, eroding community trust. Theft and assaults were recurrent. Gunfire and threats from organized groups forced some families to relocate, and many others are keen to do so.

While men and boys remained disproportionately affected by security incidents, accounting for 71% and 14% of total victims respectively, two women were killed by their husbands during the reporting period, in cases that may be classified as femicides. A boy who had been missing since 7 June was found dead on 9 June near Himchari Sea Beach in Ramu, bearing scars that suggest he was killed. Authorities are awaiting the post-mortem report to confirm the exact cause of death. Men comprised 64% of abductions and kidnapping victims, followed by boys (27%), women (5%) and girls (4%).

Demographic of Serious Protection Incidents



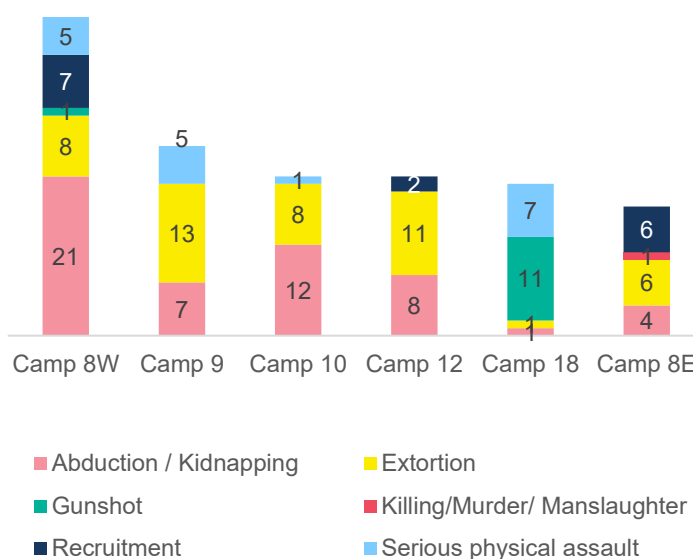
⁵*There were 16 cases related to gunshots or suspected use of firearms, 1 reported incident of physical assault and 1 extortion incident involving persons for whom gender and age could not be identified.

⁵ Demographic information for this report is captured per incident, not per individual or household affected. As a result, incidents involving multiple affected persons (e.g Extortion cases impacting several families) are represented by a single demographic entry. The figures should therefore be interpreted as indicative of incident-level demographics, not the full demographic scope of all individuals impacted.

Thefts of livestock, solar panels, household goods, and mosque property were reported across all camps, with some actors demanding bribes to return stolen items. ARSA and some majhis seized gardening plots, extorted Eid meat, and threatened rivals. Night patrolling by refugees continued to be a common practice across multiple camps and majhis were widely criticized for verbal abuse, coerced participation, and extortion. In Camp 21, for example, individuals unable to patrol must pay BDT 150 to 200 (USD 1.20 to 1.65) per night. Vulnerable groups, including the elderly and single-headed households, faced pressure, and some reported physical abuse by APBn forces during these activities.

Online gambling has become increasingly popular across the camps, allegedly promoted by a group of people in camps called “*master agents*”, who not only encourage gambling but also provide cash loans, trapping people in cycles of debt. To fund their gambling, many refugees resort to criminal activities, including robbery, snatching, drug dealing, and abduction for ransom. Others mortgage their ration cards, sell food, non-food items and gold, or borrow money.

Top Five Camps by Incidents Reported



During the reporting period, 112 cases of human trafficking of refugees within Bangladesh were recorded. The profile of victims, type of trafficking and modus operandi of traffickers was consistent with the information reported in Quarter 1 (2025). Most human trafficking victims were male (67%), lured with the promise of paid work but ultimately subjected to forced labour. In addition, 15 children were identified as victims of trafficking. Refugees' homes/shelters were reported as the main sites of initial contact with the traffickers. Of the victims, 41% remained in Cox's Bazar while 35% were reportedly taken to Chittagong.

The data in this dashboard is generated only from information communicated by ATWG members and does not necessarily indicate the full extent of trafficking in the camps due to possible underreporting of cases. These statistics may be subject to change. More details in the quarterly Dashboard produced by the Anti-Trafficking Working Group (AT WG), available [here](#).

112

Refugees Identified

68

Men

29

Women

7

Boys

8

Girls

CHILD PROTECTION

During the second quarter of 2025, serious child rights violations in the context of armed violence in Cox's Bazar continued to occur. The Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) documented an overall increase in reported cases this quarter, with a total of 144 separate incidents impacting 294 children from April to June. Of the 249 children impacted, 144 were boys, 23 were girls, and the sex/gender of the other 127 remains unknown. 56 of the incidents were independently verified, while 21 incidents were confirmed to within a reasonable level of probability⁶. Most of the reported incidents came from Camp 3 (21 incidents) and Camp 11 (10 incidents).

Abduction and kidnapping of children remains the most frequently reported rights violation, with 69 incidents impacting 86 children documented by the CRMM. 67 of the children were boys, 13 were girls, and the sex/gender of the other six is unknown. It is noted, however, that the dynamics of abduction and kidnap-for-ransom remain uncertain with lack of clarity on perpetrators. Recruitment and use of children by armed groups also remains a concern with reports of 126 children recruited and three children known to be at risk of recruitment this quarter. Five boys were reportedly killed; while 29 children, of whom 25 were boys, were reportedly injured. The CRMM documented nine incidents of sexual

⁶ The CRMM does not require forensic evidence of violations against children. In line with global practice, “verification” requires an incident to be reported and/or corroborated by a “primary source” – a child survivor, immediate family member, direct eyewitness, or perpetrator. When an incident is adjudged to have occurred “to within a reasonable level of probability”, it usually means no contact has been made with a primary source but trained monitors and other child protection professionals have been able to triangulate the information through other sources.

violence against children, with nine girls impacted. As with other violations, significant under-reporting is likely. The actions of armed groups also disrupted services for children; in the period April to June, the CRMM documented one case of denial of humanitarian access affecting 36 children.

Children in the camps continued to face significant protection challenges: additional data from 513 key informant interviews conducted under the Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) initiative across all 33 camps and 16 focus group discussions conducted with 182 children highlighted the pressing need for child protection-targeted interventions.

Child recruitment was reported as a concern in the camp, though only 34% of key informants agreed to respond to related questions, primarily due to fear of discussing the topic. Among those who did respond, 40% reported being aware of children currently associated with armed groups, and 27% acknowledged awareness of children who had returned after involvement with such groups—reflecting a 7% increase from the previous quarter.

Children reported adolescents are being encouraged or coerced into joining armed groups, brokers, or drug networks, where poverty, insecurity, forced recruitment, and the search for perceived power remain the major drivers. Participants consistently highlighted that children without parental care, those who are separated, or those out of school are particularly vulnerable to recruitment. Approximately 25% of participants reported direct knowledge of children who had returned from armed groups, describing them as psychologically traumatized, stigmatized, or socially rejected. Others either denied any knowledge or declined to speak on the matter—suggesting that fear, stigma, or lack of awareness may hinder open discussions around the issue.

Child labour was also reported during this quarter as a widespread issue, with 67% of key informants (a 2% increase from the previous quarter) indicating that many children continue to be engaged in work that often exposes them to health risks, disrupts their education, and limits their access to recreational activities.

Children said that child labour is widespread in their communities. Participants described various forms of work, noting that boys are more frequently involved in hazardous and visible labour such as carrying heavy loads, driving *tomtoms*, and working in markets. In contrast, girls were primarily reported to engage in unpaid domestic work or home-based economic activities.

Across the discussions, 82% of refugees reported physical health issues linked to child labour, including fatigue and stunted growth; 95% noted disruption to education; and 77% cited psychological distress, including sadness, fear, and mental exhaustion. Child marriage also remains a significant concern, with 35% of adults acknowledging its prevalence (a 5% increase from the previous quarter) with children confirming that adolescent marriages continue to occur within the camps, especially impacting adolescent girls. Many reported that girls are married off after puberty due to poverty, insecurity, cultural norms, to preserve family honour, or to seek for protection.

Reported consequences of child marriage include school dropouts, early pregnancy, gender-based violence, and psychosocial distress, particularly among girls aged 10 to 14. Some noted that marriages still occur secretly or with community or parental complicity. Child survivors of gender-based violence were reported as a concern in the camp, with 25% of key informants indicating that children were at risk of or affected by sexual violence—reflecting a 4% increase compared to the first quarter. Among the reported perpetrators, 28% were identified as friends, relatives, or family members; 23% as neighbours; 19% as armed groups; and 16% as community leaders.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

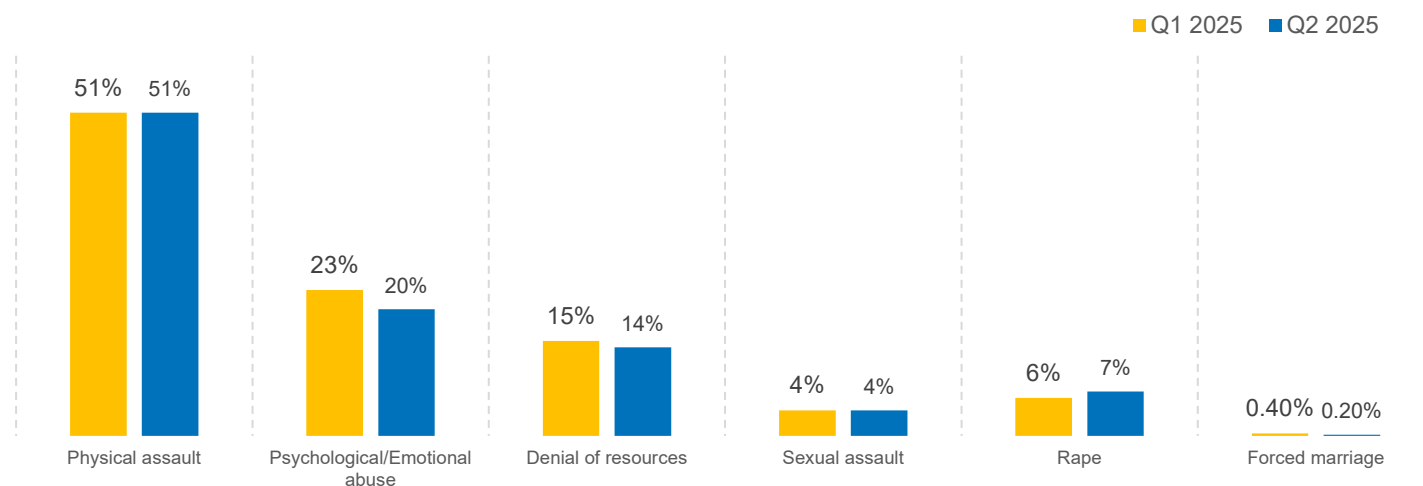
While the data indicates a 4% decrease in reported GBV cases between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2025, field observations and qualitative inputs from focus group discussions suggest that this decline does not reflect a true reduction in violence. Instead, it points to increased normalization of abuse, underreporting, and the adoption of harmful coping strategies—driven by rising insecurity, restricted mobility, and worsening economic conditions.

Only 2% of reported GBV cases involve male survivors, reflecting significant barriers rooted in cultural norms and socialization processes that discourage men from disclosing experiences of violence.

Physical assault remains the most frequently reported form of GBV, accounting for 51% of cases in both quarters. Its consistent proportion, despite an overall decrease in GBV case reporting, suggests that, while this form of violence remains highly visible, it may also be increasingly tolerated or normalized—particularly within intimate relationships where women feel unsafe or unable to challenge it.

During focus group discussions, women reported enduring physical assault within marriage, viewing it as part of a broader trade-off for perceived protection amid rising insecurity. Marriage is also seen as a source of social respect and legitimacy. For example, when a woman from Camp 19 reported that thieves had stolen her belongings, authorities told her that the incident would not have happened if she had been married. This narrative reinforces harmful gender norms that both legitimize violence and marginalize unmarried women, further deterring help-seeking and accountability.

Top types of GBV reported



Psychological and/or emotional abuse decreased by 3% compared to last quarter. The reported decline in psychological and emotional abuse may not indicate a true reduction in incidence, but rather a shift in perception and reporting. Increased dependency and the use of marriage as a perceived protective mechanism—for both women and their daughters—have contributed to the normalization of emotional abuse within households. In some cases, women have reportedly resorted to child or forced marriages to shield daughters from external threats such as abduction or sexual violence.

Within this “protection bargain,” emotional abuse is often tolerated or overlooked, resulting in under-identification and reduced reporting. This internal normalization masks the real extent of harm and underscores the need for increased community engagement and awareness of non-physical forms of GBV.

Denial of resources decreased from 15% to 14%. The slight decline in reported cases of denial of resources may obscure the deepening severity of economic gender-based violence. Women are facing increasing financial control, with reports of men gambling away household assets, including jewellery, shelter, and, in extreme cases, even their spouses. One documented femicide case involved a woman killed by her husband after she refused to sell her jewellery to fund his gambling.

In parallel, the beginning of this reporting quarter saw a marked withdrawal of adolescent girls from public spaces—including schools and safe spaces—due to escalating insecurity. This has significantly limited their access to education, psychosocial support, life skills programming, and reproductive health information. Such withdrawal constitutes a form of systemic denial of essential resources and opportunities. Often framed by families as protective measures against threats such as abduction or violence by organized groups, these restrictions ultimately strip girls of agency and reinforce gender inequality. This form of gendered deprivation, while increasingly prevalent, remains largely invisible in formal GBV reporting systems, calling for greater attention in programming and data collection.

Sexual violence, including rape, increased from 6% to 7% and sexual assault remained at 4%. While the increase in reported rape cases appears marginal at 1%, it is significant when viewed in the context of a 4% overall decrease in total GBV case reporting. This suggests a concerning trend: despite heightened fear and silencing, more severe forms of sexual violence are still being reported, indicating a possible escalation in both the intensity and brutality of GBV in some camps.

Field reports confirm incidents of gang rape in at least two camps, including one case that occurred during a robbery—highlighting the disturbing intersection between criminal activity and sexual violence. Survivors have reported facing threats and fearing retaliation, particularly in areas where organized groups operate with impunity. These threats have significantly deterred help-seeking, leading to delayed or entirely foregone access to critical services. In these same

locations, GBV caseworkers and protection actors have documented instances of suicidal ideation and attempts among survivors, underscoring the profound psychosocial toll of unaddressed GBV. Current data suggests that, while less severe forms of sexual violence remain largely underreported, the most extreme cases—such as gang rape and violence perpetrated by organized groups—are compelling survivors to seek help despite considerable risks.

Reported cases of forced marriages decreased from 0.4% to 0.2%. While the reported incidence appears to have declined, qualitative data from focus group discussions suggests that this decrease may be misleading. Child/forced marriage is increasingly being used by families as a perceived protective strategy—particularly to shield girls from risks of abduction or sexual violence. This reframing of violence as protection contributes to its underreporting and invisibility in service data.

The perpetrator-survivor relationships reveal that 75% of reported GBV incidents involve intimate partners, while 9% involve family friends or neighbours, and 8% involve other family members excluding spouses or caregivers. Furthermore, 88% of GBV cases occurred within the survivor's residence, highlighting the predominance of domestic settings as sites of violence and underscoring the critical need for tailored prevention and response strategies in these environments.

In Quarter 2, 59% of GBV survivors declined legal services, reflecting persistent barriers to accessing justice. These challenges encompass fear of social reprisal, lengthy legal processes, and emotional distress, further exacerbated by cultural norms and breaches of confidentiality, particularly when community leaders are engaged in mediation. Such impediments significantly hinder survivors' help-seeking behaviour, thereby increasing their exposure to ongoing violence and harm.

**For a full comprehensive report with more in-depth GBV risk monitoring, please refer to the [GBVSS Rohingya Response webpage](#) and the corresponding quarterly in depth GBV report.*

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

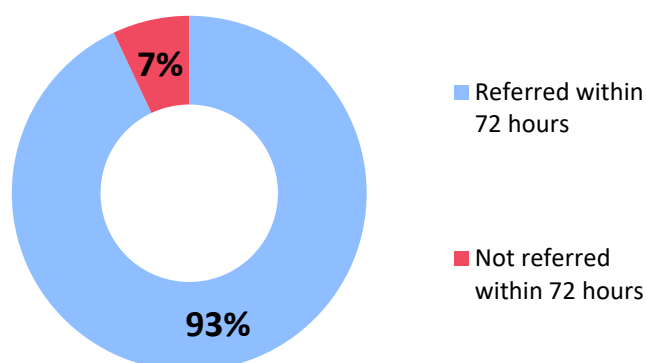
During Quarter 2, incidents affecting social cohesion decreased by 63%, with seven incidents involving 222 individuals, 95% of whom were refugees. There was however a 22% increase of refugee's involvement in incidents affecting peaceful coexistence in comparison to the first quarter of the year.

The primary drivers of social cohesion incidents were linked to Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues. There has been an increase in disputes over land, shelter, and financial issues both among refugees and between refugees and host community members. These incidents are particularly linked to newly arrived refugees constructing makeshift shelters adjacent to existing ones or renting shelters in nearby host communities, leading to an increased number of incidents. In one notable case reported in Camp 9, a host community landowner issued a warning that no Rohingya families would be permitted to remain on his land, where approximately 200 families currently reside. This threat followed a dispute involving the landowners' son and local camp leaders. On June 5, the same landowner reiterated his threat to evict the Rohingya residents, accusing them of supporting organized groups that he claimed endanger his family's safety.

Social cohesion across several camps also weakened due to seemingly growing influence of organized groups, and leadership rivalries. A refugee who previously resided in Camp 19 had to relocate to Camp 1W due to threats and intimidation by organized groups. His registration data was officially transferred to Camp 1W. However, due to limited space, he was unable to secure a shelter within the camp and has been renting land from a host community member. The host community member however, reclaimed the land and the refugee was evicted.

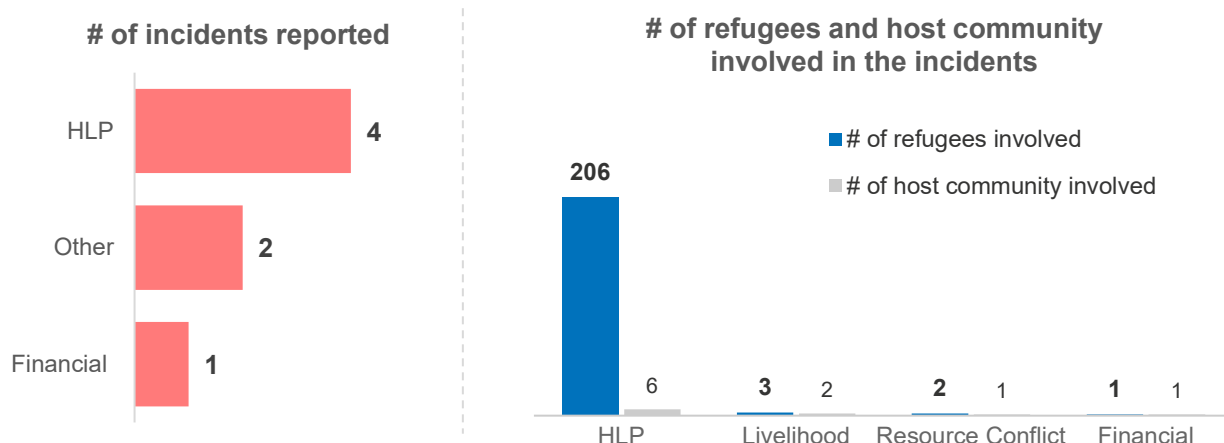
In Ukhiya, competition between RCPR, ARSA, and majhi networks fractured leadership structures, while public claims of legitimacy, including by Dil Mohammad, triggered counterclaims and community confusion. A group of host community members in Pan Bazar issued threats against Rohingya traders and teachers and imposed restrictions during Eid markets. Refugees were accused of harbouring militants (accusations remained unverified) and issued

Rape cases referred within the critical window of 72 hours for CMR Services

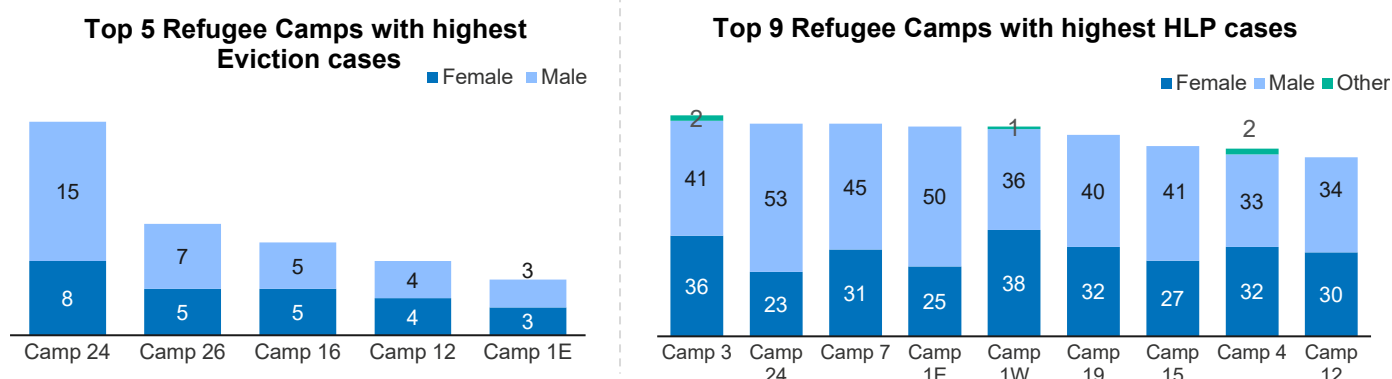


eviction threats. In Teknaf, social cohesion was affected by strained refugee–host relations, power imbalances, and increased organized group presence. Incidents involving host community youth, including alcohol use and threats toward widowed women, raised concerns among vulnerable groups.

Restricted access to livelihoods opportunities and lack of resources were also identified as key issues eroding social cohesion. In Camp 9, a physical altercation was reported near the WFP outlet between a Rohingya refugee and a member of the host community. The conflict arose when the refugee attempted to purchase ration items from other refugees, prompting the host community member—who also intended to buy the same items—to intervene. The disagreement escalated into a violent physical confrontation.



Incidents categorized as “other” include a case in which two Rohingya individuals were physically assaulted by a host community autorickshaw driver following a dispute over fare charges and an incident between a group of Rohingyas from Camp 25 and host community members suspected of trafficking people to Malaysia.



During the reporting period, a total of 1,341 HLP cases were recorded. The five most frequently reported case types included relocation requests (494 cases), disputes over access to shelters or pathways (171), conflicts over public facilities (138), shelter-related grievances (129), and eviction cases (27). During this period, camps 1W, 8W, 15, 19, 24, 26, and 27 had the highest number of HLP incidents, where informal shelter expansion, host community pressure, and shared infrastructure disputes were commonly reported. HLP trends in the host community also showed increased tension over land use and rental exploitation, including cases where multiple host claimants issued eviction threats to refugees occupying the same plot. Pressure on refugees from host community members—including rent demands and increases—affected social cohesion amongst refugees and host communities. In Camp 16, for example, a host community member occupied a refugees’ shelter and did not allow refugees to return unless they paid the full rent demanded. In Camp 27, refugees reported feeling hesitant to seek support from humanitarian organizations or CiCs to address incidents of rent increase out of fear of retaliation by landowners.

The rising number of thefts within the camps has become a catalyst for mistrust amongst neighbours. Reports indicate a growing trend of stolen belongings, aid materials, and household items occurring both day and night. This surge in theft appears to be linked to increasing unemployment and a rise in gambling-related behaviour. These factors contribute to heightened frustration and vulnerability among refugees.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Between April to June, 9,177 refugees (51% women and girls) benefited from legal services provided. Services included legal counselling, assistance filing cases with the police and in courts, as well as court representation, and release from detention centres after intervention by legal actors. Among these, 5,455 refugees were provided with legal counselling, 153 were assisted with filing legal complaints in police stations and courts, as well as obtaining camp exit permits from CiCs. During the reporting period, 347 refugees were released from detention centres; 143 refugees were represented in legal proceedings in court, and 167 refugees were assisted to visit their relatives in Cox's Bazar prison.

As part of the alternative dispute resolution mechanism, legal partners provided mediation support for 1,434 cases (involving 2,912 refugees), with 75% of them successfully resolved. Legal assistance was provided mostly in cases where refugees were victims of abduction, physical assault, killing, human trafficking and family-related disputes.

During the reporting period, 12,572 refugees were reached through 714 group legal awareness sessions, where lawyers informed refugees and responded to questions on legal issues, including legal procedures and available legal services in the camps. However, refugees have reported feeling uncomfortable reporting crimes to law enforcement due to safety and security fears. In some instances, witnesses also denied cooperating with investigation officers and did not appear in court due to the absence of adequate protection mechanisms for complainants and witnesses. For example, in kidnapping and abduction cases, even after identifying the perpetrators and paying ransoms, families refrain from pursuing legal action due to security concerns. In several camps, majhis and organized group affiliates—including ARSA, RSO, and ARA—are resolving serious security incidents informally. Victims are often pressured into accepting informal decisions without access to formal legal remedies. Additionally, some majhis reportedly have been engaged in harmful practices such as facilitating child marriage, extortion, abuse and unauthorized marriage and divorce—failing to follow established procedures and referral systems. Bribes were reportedly required to retrieve stolen goods or resolve disputes. In some camps, both majhis and organized group members held closed-door arbitrations involving corporal punishment.

In Teknaf, access to justice was primarily conducted through informal means (mediation). People were reluctant to engage APBn in disputes due to threats and fears of retaliation by criminal groups, organized groups and host community members. Reporting crimes such as trafficking or theft often resulted in threats. In one case, a theft witness was fined by a mediator with family ties to the accused.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

During the reporting period, the number of refugees reporting challenges in accessing services increased threefold (304%), for a total of 7,052 affected individuals. This spike is mainly attributed to Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) incidents reported across several camps. Cases included deteriorating shelters, with cracks in the walls, damaged poles, and torn tarpaulins leading to severe water leakage during rainfall. In Camp 9, a family reported rainwater flooding their home, making it impossible to sleep at night. Similarly, in Camp 5, a woman reported a weakened shelter due to damaged bamboo.

Safety concerns were also reported for families living in hilly or sloped areas. In Camp 15, one household remains at critical risk of landslides, urgently requiring the construction of a retaining wall to prevent soil erosion and potential collapse. In Camp 21, a family residing on a steep slope without proper stair access is facing mobility challenges—especially during the rainy season when the terrain becomes slippery. A child from this household has already suffered an accident due to the current conditions.

Access to healthcare services was one of the most pressing concerns reported by refugees during this period. According to refugees, in nearly every household of some camps, at least one member fell ill during the reporting period. Common symptoms included high fever, joint pain, severe headaches, extreme fatigue, insomnia, vomiting, and skin irritation. The community said they suspected the outbreak was linked to extreme heat, a new COVID-19 variant, dengue, or other viral infections such as chikungunya. These health challenges were further compounded by rising cases of chickenpox, measles, diarrhoea, and hepatitis C. In Camp 11, eight deaths were reported following the heavy rains, with symptoms consistent with a suspected outbreak of viral fever accompanied by joint pain. The deceased included three elderly individuals, two young children aged five and seven, and three adults aged 25, 27, and 37. However, these accounts have not been corroborated by health partners. In one of the reported cases, an elderly patient reportedly died after receiving an injection from a local refugee doctor, raising concerns about unsafe medical practices.

Refugee patients also reported being prescribed only paracetamol or omeprazole in some health facilities, regardless of their symptoms. The high needs during the reporting period led to overcrowded hospitals and delayed referrals. In camps 13, 16, 17, 20E, 24, and 27, some women reported discomfort with presence of male health staff during childbirth and felt pressured into procedures like C-sections or birth control without proper explanation or consent. Six Protection access concerns were reported of health staff refusing to issue Birth Information Notes (BIN) to register new babies unless the mothers agreed to accept long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) in camps 1E, 3, 4 and 13.

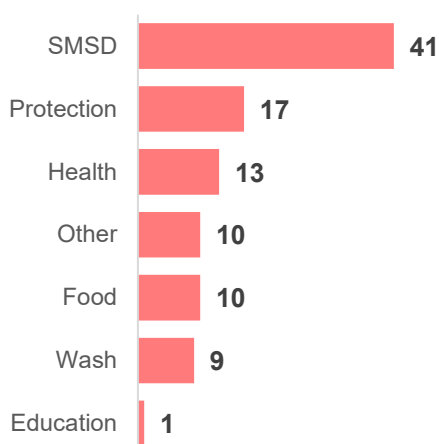
Physical access to healthcare was also reported as a major barrier for some refugees, especially for those with disabilities. Ambulance services are very limited outside of childbirth emergencies, and vulnerable individuals were frequently reported to be transported to health centres in bamboo chairs or fabric hammocks, in absence of more dignified modes. With saturated formal healthcare systems, many families are forced to turn to unqualified rural practitioners or private pharmacies, paying consultation fees between BDT 700 and 1,500 (USD 6 to 13) along with travel costs. To afford treatment, some families report selling food rations or borrowing money, deepening the financial strain.

Incidents linked to access to registration and documentation were reported under Protection, with families facing challenges to add family members to data cards or removing them after divorce. There were cases of some newly arrived refugees who had not received assistance because they lacked data cards, either because they had not yet been counted in the biometric identification exercise or had lost their cards. These incidents were closely interlinked with food distribution concerns. Allegedly, host community members from Palongkhali were selling UNHCR tokens to the new arrivals for BDT 3,000 to 5,000 (USD 25 to 40). Issues of separated families not being able to collect food rations continue to impact women disproportionately as ex-husbands, whose data remained on the cards, often did not share the rations with their separated wives. Some cases of lengthy assessment and registration processes delaying fresh food provision to people with disabilities were also reported, with delays likely to be linked due to the ongoing blanket assessment to identify and update registration information of people with disabilities in some camps.

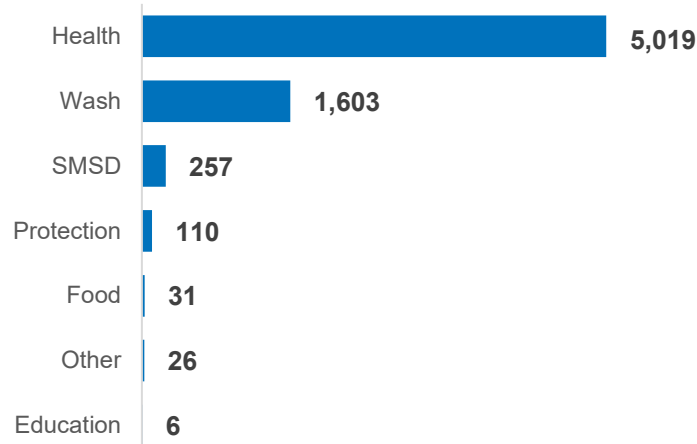
Nine incidents linked to access to WASH services were reported. In Camp 11, for example, one water tap serves some 120 families, resulting in refugees not receiving enough water for their daily needs— and to frequent conflicts between households. Incidents of small drains not being cleaned for several months were reported, with fear of insects breeding and entering the shelters. An alleged member of an organized group in Camp 6 illegally connected a pipe to a water tap station for private use, preventing others from accessing it. The NGO volunteer who reported the incident later received threats from the organized group. Damage to a tubewell that served as the primary source of water for approximately 600 individuals resulted in a significant disruption to water access in Camp 6.

Challenges reported on access to “other” services involved issues such as applications for permission for marriage, and protection concerns for families detained in Myanmar. One incident on access to education was reported by a boy who had to quit school to support his family by selling snacks.

Denial of Services
(# of Incidents by Sector)



Denial of Services
(# of refugees affected by sector)





RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prevent all recruitment activities, including gatherings for the purpose of recruitment, either voluntary or forced. Recruitment or threats of recruitment for combat, especially of children, must be strictly prohibited. The non-paper issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 May 2024, reiterates *“its position of not forcing anyone to return to Myanmar, let alone joining any form of armed conflict there”*. Similarly, all gatherings attempting to coerce or intimidate refugees to return to Myanmar should be prevented to ensure the principle of voluntary repatriation. Authorities must strengthen patrolling activities to counter recruitment efforts by organized groups. This includes monitoring suspected locations, verifying reports of recruitment meetings, and taking proactive steps to stop child recruitment.
- Representation and leadership of refugees should not be dictated or imposed through coercive tactics. Legitimate representation and leadership can only be achieved through inclusive, community-led structures freely chosen by refugees. Credible and accountable refugee representation enhances stability, safety and security, and helps uphold the humanitarian and civilian character of the camps. It also plays a vital role in supporting durable and dignified solutions by facilitating participation in discussions about their future, such as the upcoming High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar.
- Support and empower Rohingya leaders, including among the youth, emerging from the refugee communities in the camps; their safety must be also ensured by the Bangladeshi authorities. With drastic shrinking humanitarian funds, the promotion of community ownership is crucial to ensure the sustainability of the response and to promote community resilience and empowerment.
- Strengthen measures to ensure respect for the rule of law including the presence and responsiveness of law enforcement agencies inside the camps, ensuring protection-sensitive enforcement of law and order, and preventing activities incompatible with the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. Protection-oriented systems should be established to screen, disarm, remove and intern fighters and other profiles that compromise the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps.
- Ensure that family planning services remain voluntary and are not a condition to accessing humanitarian services, including registration and identity documents. Remind authorities and humanitarian staff that forcing or coercing individuals to accept medical treatment or procedures—whether by failing to provide adequate information or making it a pre-requisite for accessing services—is an abuse of medical ethics, human rights, and can be a crime.
- Promote and expand the Peace and Security Campaign to support and empower refugees to rebuild trust and confidence with law enforcement authorities, mediate for peace in the camps, and support peaceful coexistence with the host community.
- Strengthen access to formal justice mechanisms, including the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of crimes in the camps—particularly for serious protection incidents—to reduce impunity and threats to refugees. This should include deterring criminal activities, ensuring protection and assistance for refugee victims and witnesses, and reinforcing mechanisms to prevent and address instances of police misconduct, while promoting a supportive environment for law and order.
- Advocate for the full registration of new arrivals as well as their full access to individual documentation and all services, especially shelter.
- Expand and diversify livelihood opportunities and provide sufficient educational support for adolescent boys and youth to reduce the risk of drug addiction and involvement in other illegal activities. This could include expanding access to quality inclusive schooling; vocational or skill development training; recreational activities including Sports for Protection; meaningful community engagement opportunities, and mentorship programmes.
- Enhance gender-based violence prevention strategies amongst both women and men in the community, with particular attention to the challenges faced by widowed women, women and girls with disabilities, women-



headed households, youth, and adolescent girls and boys to promote gender equality. Provide safe spaces, meaningful engagement opportunities, Sports for Protection activities targeting women and girls, support groups, and counselling services. Encourage women's participation in trainings, meetings, access to service facilities, together with promoting women's empowerment and leadership.

- Continue advocacy efforts with government officials to ensure that gender-based violence services for women and girls—including those with disabilities—are dignified, survivor-centered, respectful of confidentiality, due processes, and gender-sensitive involvement.
- Enable small individual business initiatives, vocational training, and educational opportunities to mitigate the impacts of budget constraints, foster self-reliance, and reduce protection risks. Expanding opportunities for refugees lessen their dependence on humanitarian assistance and supports their sustainable reintegration when they return to Myanmar. Participation in productive activities also contributes to peaceful co-existence and social cohesion within the refugee community and with the host communities.

END