

Half Yearly Bulletin: Age and Disability

January 2025 - June 2025

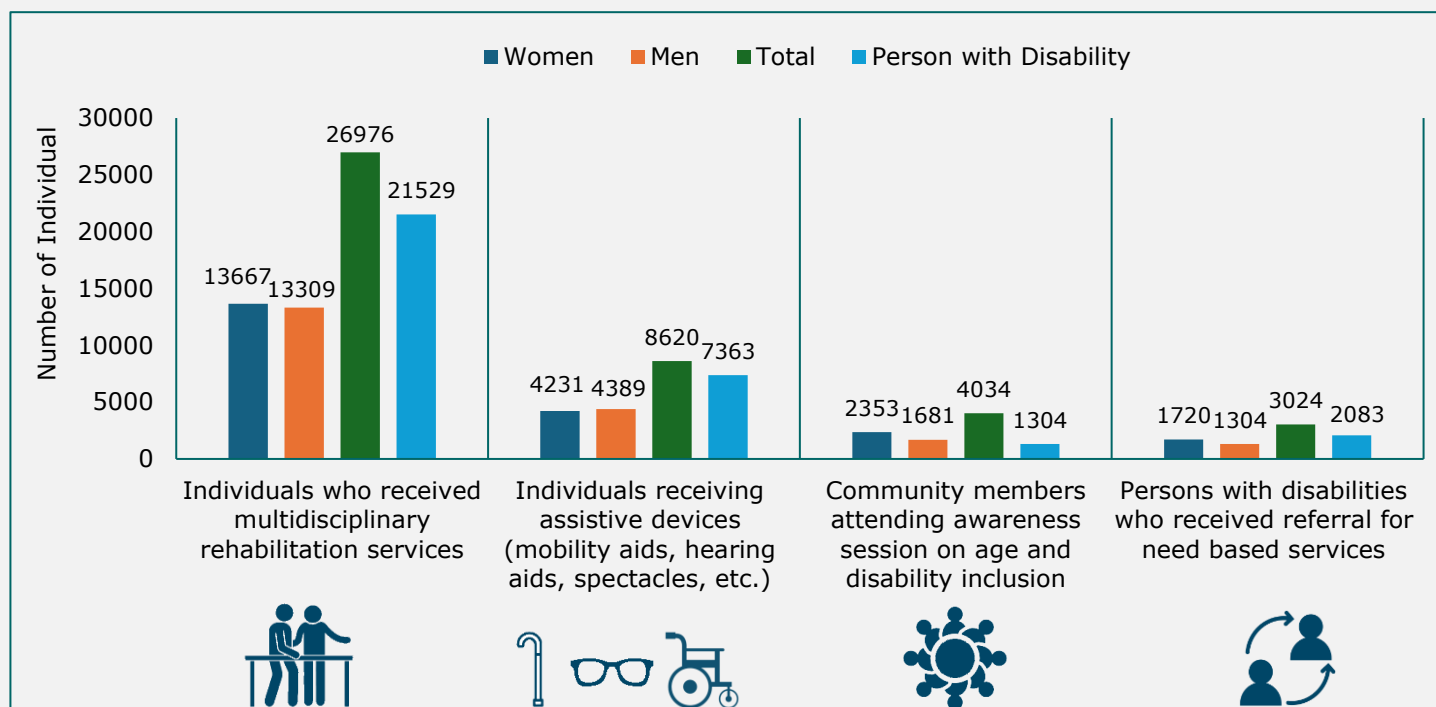


Age and disability are key cross cutting concerns in the Rohingya response, as people across all age groups children, adolescents, youth, adults, and older persons and persons with disabilities face heightened risks due to displacement, overcrowding, and limited access to services. Established in 2024 under the ISCG Secretariat, the Age and Disability Technical Working Group (ADTWG) promotes coordinated, rights-based, and inclusive action across sectors. This bulletin highlights the achievements of the ADTWG and its members over the past six months.

Achievements on the Twin Track Approach



Targeted activities



Mainstreaming disability Inclusion activities

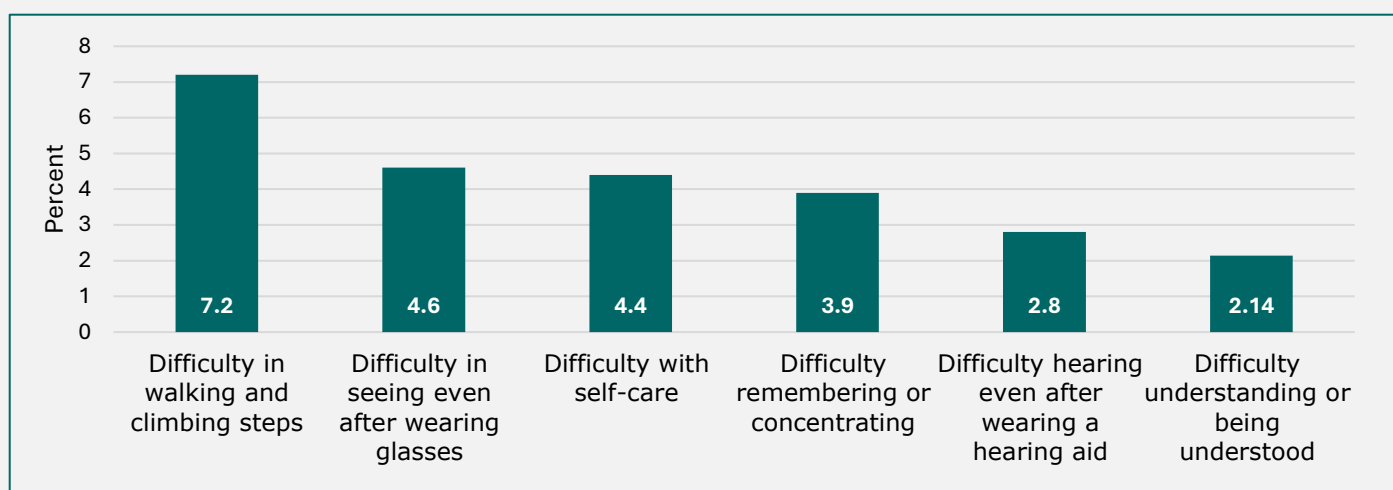
88 persons	174 persons	2
Humanitarian staff trained in disability-inclusive and age-sensitive humanitarian action.	OPD/SHG/DISC members received training to improve their capacity towards disability inclusion.	Rapid assessments, analyses, or research studies conducted on disability or older persons' needs.
38 days	6 facilities	141 shelters
Technical support initiatives provided to partner organizations for age and disability inclusion.	Accessibility audits completed at community facilities (health posts, learning centers, etc.)	Home/shelter modifications conducted to enhance accessibility and safety.

Findings from the Inter-Sector Needs Assessment 2024 (Age and Disability)

As revealed in the ISNA 2024, there are around 12% Rohingya individuals who have at least one disability.

Moreover, among persons with a disability, at least 79% are reporting some challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance, such as education, health services, shelter support, or other kinds of assistance.

Report: Find the full report [here](#).



Graph: Functional difficulties experienced by persons with disabilities across different Washington Group Short Set Questionnaire domains. (ISNA 2024)

Activities to promote Age and Disability inclusion in line with IASC Guidance

Meaningful Participation	Removing Barriers
Members of the ADTWG ensured that Disability Inclusion Promotion Group (DIPG), Self-Help Group (SHG), and Disability Support/Disability Inclusion and Support Committee (DSC/DISC) members actively took part in advocacy events, trainings, and awareness sessions, promoting the meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities in project planning and implementation.	Alongside audits and accessibility improvements in shelters and centers to remove physical barriers by partners like HI and CDD, CDD held community and school based awareness sessions to address attitudinal barriers. Humanity & Inclusion conducted a Sector Specific Barriers and Enablers Assessment, identifying challenges and providing sector-specific recommendations to strengthen inclusive service delivery.
Data Disaggregation for Inclusion	Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
ADTWG member HI continued to collect household-level disability data in the Rohingya camp, with completion expected by September. Additionally, trainings were provided to mainstreaming organizations on the proper use of the Washington Group questionnaire, enhancing their capacity to collect disability-disaggregated data and support inclusive programming.	ADTWG member HI provided training to Disability Inclusion Promotion Group (DIPG) members, while leadership training by CDD and CBMG strengthened the capacity of SHG and DSC members. IOM continued capacity building for DISC members. Monthly review meetings offered a platform to reflect on progress, share learning, and explore opportunities for skills development.

Provision of Technical Support

Upon request from ActionAid (UN Women funded), the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), an ADTWG member, facilitated a two-day disability inclusion training for the Women Empowerment Project staff in Cox's Bazar. Held on 24–25 May 2025 at Best Western Heritage, the training focused on practical strategies to make project activities accessible and inclusive for women and girls with disabilities, equipping participants to integrate disability-inclusive approaches into their daily work and strengthen overall project inclusivity.



Photo: Action Aid partner staff receiving training on disability inclusion facilitated by CDD.

Photo credit: Ferdawsi Joti, CDD

Provision of Technical Support

Upon request, ADTWG members CBM Global and the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) jointly co-facilitated a session on building staff capacity in the Washington Group of Questions. The session was organized by Plan International and coordinated by the Livelihood and Skills Development Sector. It helped partner staff to effectively use the Washington Group Set questionnaire on disability.



Photo: Plan international partner staff receiving training on WGQ. **Photo credit:** CDD

Disability Inclusion Assessment Updates

Sector-Level Barrier and Enabler Assessment Report

Humanity & Inclusion, in collaboration with ADTWG and ISCG, conducted a sector-level Barrier and Enabler Assessment through FGDs with persons with disabilities and their caregivers, along with observation visits at service points. The assessment aimed to analyze the current situation, identify barriers and enablers to inclusion, and provide recommendations. The final report has been shared with the relevant sectors involved in the assessment, including FSS, Health, Protection, LSDS, and SCCCM.

Status: Completed



Disability Inclusion Sectoral Needs Analysis

Humanity & Inclusion, in collaboration with ADTWG and ISCG, conducted an assessment on Disability Inclusion Sectoral Needs Analysis through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) with sector focal points and humanitarian actors. The analysis aimed to assess the current situation, identify strengths, and provide recommendations. The draft report has been circulated for review by the relevant sectors, including LSDS, FSS, Protection, Health, SCCCM, Nutrition, Education, and WASH.

Status: Ongoing

Guidance and Support to Sectors for Inclusive Programming (RAAL LAB)

In collaboration with ISCG and the Age & Disability Technical Working Group (ADTWG), Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion organized two two-day long trainings in Cox's Bazar on 23–24 March and 15–16 April 2025. The trainings, attended by 50 staff from different humanitarian organization, aimed to build their capacity on Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action and promote rights-based programming for persons with disabilities. The next step, starting in July, will involve selection of three sectors, with two organizations from each, for three workshops to jointly review and adapt project documents to improve inclusivity.



Photo caption: Humanitarian actors from different organizations, after successfully completing a two-day training on Inclusive Programming. **Photo credit:** HI

Economic Inclusion through Skill Development for Women with Disabilities

In Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and CBM Global conducted a five-day hand embroidery training for women with disabilities from Self-Help Groups to promote inclusive livelihoods and self-reliance. Based on an inclusive market assessment, the training provided practical, home based, market relevant skills and was delivered using hands on, inclusive methods, boosting participants' confidence and capacity.

Training participant Rina Akter shared, **"This training was very valuable. Now we can contribute to our family using our spare time productively. It would be even better if we received raw materials to practice at home."**

This initiative highlights how context sensitive skill building promote sustainable, community based economic empowerment, with follow up support and market linkages to strengthen income opportunities.



Photo caption: Women from a Self-Help Group of persons with disabilities attending embroidery training in the host community of Ukhiya.

Photo credit: Shamsur Rahman, CDD

Umair's Story: Building Strength and independence through Rehabilitation

Mohammed Umair, a four year old Rohingya boy from Camp 15, Cox's Bazar, was born with severe malnutrition that left him with weak muscles, delayed development, and difficulty swallowing food. "He spent most of his time lying on a mat. We didn't have any idea how to support him," recalls his mother, Shomshida.

Humanity & Inclusion (HI), with funding from UNHCR, identified Umair during a home screening and registered him for provision of rehabilitation support. Over 14 therapeutic sessions, Umair received therapy as well as a custom made corner chair, modified toilet support, and developmental toys. The therapy focused on improving head control, feeding, posture, and hand functions, while his parents received training to continue exercises at home. Mohammed Umair was also referred to a nutrition program that supported his safe feeding and energy needs.

Today, Umair can hold his head up, sit with support, and feed himself dry foods. He interacts more with his family and enjoys playing.

They story demonstrates how inclusive rehabilitation, combined with caregiver training and nutrition support, can restore hope and independence for children with disabilities.



Photo caption: Mohammed Umair receiving therapy from Rehabilitation officer at his shelter. **Photo credit:** HI-UNHCR



Photo caption: Mohammed Umair enjoys eating while his mother supports him. **Photo credit:** HI-UNHCR

Inclusive Nutrition Services for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women with Disabilities in Rohingya Camps

In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, the World Food Programme (WFP) is committed to providing inclusive nutrition services specifically tailored for pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBWs) with disabilities, ensuring that this vulnerable group receives the care they need.

WFP's service providers conducted door-to-door screening at the community level to identify cases of malnutrition among PBWs. Those found malnourished were promptly referred to the Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) for specialized treatment and prevention, which included access to therapeutic nutrition products.

At both community and facility levels, PBWs received specialized nutritious foods aimed at preventing anemia and supporting maternal health. The program also delivered targeted maternal and child nutrition messaging and offered individualized counselling at nutrition centres to help women adopt healthy practices.

To ensure comprehensive care, WFP also facilitated timely referrals and linkages for PBWs to antenatal (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) services at health facilities. This integrated approach aims to reduce malnutrition and anemia, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and promote equity in access to vital nutrition and health support.



Photo caption: A Rohingya mother receiving therapeutic nutrition products for her child.

Photo credit: WFP Cooperating Partner SHED, providing nutrition support in the refugee camps.

Independence and Social Inclusion through Community-Based Rehabilitation

Imam Hossain, a 34-year-old Rohingya, lives in Camp 20, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. A year ago, he lost the lower part of his left leg in a landmine blast while entering into Bangladesh, which drastically affected his mobility and daily life.

After identified by the Rehabilitation team, through a comprehensive rehabilitation program, Imam received the necessary therapeutic support and was fitted with a prosthetic limb. After six weeks, including several therapeutic and prosthetic sessions, he can now stand and walk independently using the prosthetic limb.

This rehabilitation has not only restored his physical abilities but also boosted his confidence. Imam is now preparing to start a new business, supporting his family and actively participating in social life.

Imam Hossain shared, **"I used to be very active, but after the incident, I wasn't. Now, I am beginning to live fully again."**



Caption: After receiving a prosthetic limb and training, Imam is trying to ride a bicycle. **Photo credit:** SARPV

From Struggle to Strength: Innosofa's Story of Resilience

Innosofa, a 21-year-old woman from Balukhali Rohingya Camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, has transformed her life through determination. Born with scoliosis and lower limb impairments, she faced mobility challenges and social exclusion, compounded by growing up as an orphan in the Rohingya camp.

During a household disability screening, Humanity & Inclusion's (HI) Rehabilitation Mobile Team assessed her needs and provided functional rehabilitation, mental health services, and assistive devices, including modified shoes that enabled her to walk independently.



Caption: Innosofa conducting awareness session in the camp. **Photo credit:** HI

With improved function, Innosofa now volunteers with an organization in the camp, confidently using her communication, leadership, and advocacy skills. After completing HI's training program for community resource persons, she actively promotes rights-based disability inclusion, identifies and refers those in need, and supports others facing similar challenges in her community. Innosofa shared, **"I once believed my disability would always limit me. I used to depend on others for even the smallest tasks, but now I walk independently, and support others to find their strength too."**

Dashboard on Age and Disability

During this period, the Age and Disability Cross Cutting Unit of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group prepared and shared a dashboard summarizing the unit's objectives, achievements, and member details.

It is available on the Age and Disability section of [Rohingyaresponse.org](https://rohingyaresponse.org) ([link](#)).

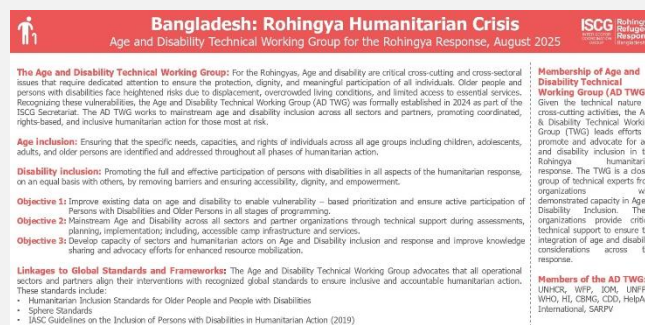


Figure: Dashboard on Age and Disability

Upcoming Activity Plan (July- December 2025)

- Conduct Review, Adapt, and Action Learning (RAAL) Labs to collaboratively review, develop, and adapt assessment tools for inclusion.
- Complete the Disability Inclusion Sectoral Needs Analysis and share the findings with relevant sectors to support advocacy efforts.
- Develop new learning materials, including guidance documents and IEC materials.
- Establish a Disability Inclusion resource library and orient partners on its use.
- Provide technical support to mainstreaming organizations to promote inclusion as needed.
- Contribute to the Inter-Sector Needs Assessment 2025.
- Support documentation and peer review processes for the JRP and other cross-cutting documents.

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