

World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP)

Activity Report



INTRODUCTION

This year's **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** emphasized the complexity of human trafficking as a part of larger transnational organized crime schemes.

Human trafficking remains a serious global issue, increasingly driven by organized crime. Each year, more victims are trafficked across longer distances and subjected to greater violence and exploitation for extended periods, all for higher profits. Between 2020 and 2023, over 200,000 victims were officially identified worldwide, though the true number is likely much higher due to widespread underreporting.

Criminal networks exploit migration routes, global supply chains, legal loopholes, and digital platforms to facilitate large-scale trafficking. They profit from forced labor, sexual exploitation, and coercion into illegal activities like online scams and drug trafficking. Despite some progress, law enforcement efforts are still insufficient. To effectively combat this evolving crime, authorities must strengthen laws, enhance international cooperation, disrupt financial flows, and use technology to dismantle trafficking operations.

In recognition of this important day, the **Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG)** in Cox's Bazar, co-chaired by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), coordinated a series of impactful activities across all refugee camps, Bhasan Char, and host community areas. These activities included awareness-raising sessions, training workshops, media outreach, and art-based initiatives, engaging six organizations within the ATWG.

Overall, the WDATIP activities reached approximately **5,185 refugees** (1,813 men, 1,200 women, 1,160 boys, and 1,012 girls), including 176 persons with disabilities, through community dramas, workshops, training, and art-based events. In addition, the radio broadcasting was estimated to have reached out to a total of 378,260 individuals (151,304 men and 226,956 women).

SUMMARY

Organizations involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) BRAC COAST Foundation Humanity & Inclusion (HI) International Organization for Migration (IOM) International Rescue Committee (IRC) Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Winrock International Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)
Camps covered	Camps 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 3, 4, 4EXT, 5, 6, 8E, 8W, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20/20EXT, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, Bhasan Char, host community areas
Types of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising (general and legal) Radio broadcasts Art activities (storytelling sessions, including drama and drawing, to creatively express anti-trafficking themes.) Trainings, workshops and meetings Rally and human chain News article on a local newspaper

Number of individuals reached through WDATIP activities¹

Men **1,813**

Women **1,200**

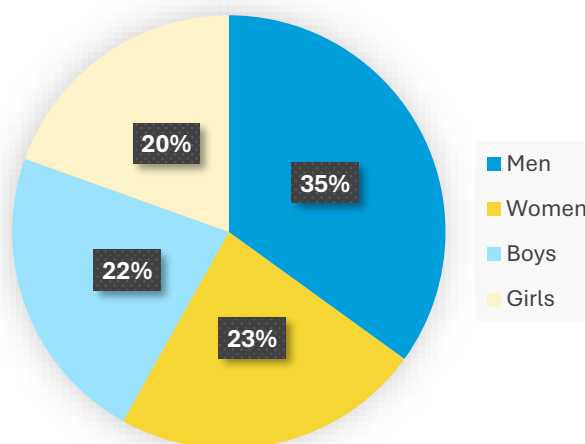
Boys **1,160**

Girls **1,012**

TOTAL 5,185

including 176 persons with disabilities

Gender/Age ratio of individuals reached through WDATIP activities



¹ This number excludes the estimated number reached through the radio broadcasting.

AWARENESS RAISING AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Multiple organizations conducted **awareness-raising activities** across Rohingya refugee camps and host communities to combat human trafficking. BNWLA used engaging multimedia formats like video animations and radio plays in Camps 24, 25, and the host community area. HI implemented a wide-reaching campaign across camps, tailoring sessions to specific groups—such as youth males, persons with disabilities, and gender-specific audiences—while also organizing a human chain to foster community solidarity. IRC focused on block-level sessions with Community-Based Protection members, emphasizing localized engagement and collaborative learning to empower residents with knowledge on trafficking risks and reporting mechanisms.



Awareness Raising Session in camp 25 (by BNWLA)

Winrock organized two major anti-trafficking events in Teknaf's host community area, involving diverse stakeholders including government officials, civil society, and youth, which strengthened community commitment against trafficking. YPSA conducted targeted activities in five camps, using creative tools like comic strips and video shows to reach children and youth. COAST Foundation held eight sessions featuring interactive discussions, role plays, and IEC material distribution to promote child safety.



Discussion session with communities in camp 14 (by COAST Foundation)



Awareness raising session for children in camp 15 (by YPSA)

NRC and BRAC conducted impactful **legal awareness activities** across refugee camps. NRC held 31 legal awareness sessions reaching 558 participants—including men, women, children, persons with disabilities, and third-gender individuals—focusing on trafficking risks and prevention strategies, especially for new arrivals. BRAC and UNICEF organized a day-long event featuring rallies, art competitions, and interactive sessions at their operational facilities, including Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) and Safe Space for Women and Girls (SSWGs). These activities empowered adolescents, caregivers, and community leaders to recognize manipulation in job or migration offers and strengthen community-based protection mechanisms.



Legal Awareness Session in camp 5 (by NRC)

In Bhasan Char, BRAC conducted 60 awareness sessions, reaching 780 refugees. The activities involved diverse community members—including children, elders, and persons with disabilities—and discussed trafficking risks, legal rights, and protection mechanisms. Community volunteers mobilized participants and facilitated discussions, amplifying community voices. The initiative fostered dialogue, built trust, and empowered participants with knowledge to safeguard themselves and others from exploitation.



Awareness Raising Session in Bhasan Char (by BRAC)

IOM organized two **roundtable discussions** to strengthen awareness and collaboration on human trafficking prevention. The first session brought together government officials, community leaders, and youth leaders, engaging 25 participants in meaningful dialogue. The second was a panel discussion involving journalists, teachers, Union Parishad members, and community leaders, also with 25 participants. These discussions provided a platform for diverse stakeholders to share perspectives, raise awareness, and explore coordinated strategies to combat human trafficking in the community.

ART ACTIVITIES

BNWLA, HI, IOM, and IRC organized a range of creative and community-based events across multiple camps to raise awareness about human trafficking and provide psychosocial support. HI conducted **art competitions** and awareness sessions in four camps, engaging 61 participants. IOM held drama sessions with youth boys in Camps 11 and 12 and a drama show in the HC area. BNWLA facilitated art competitions in Camps 24 and 25, targeting youth and adolescents, while IRC led **drama and roleplay sessions** in Camps 1E, 1W, 15, 16, 21, and 25, involving community members, actors, and CiC office representatives. These sessions featured content presentations and concluded with the collection of community pledges against human trafficking. In total, 441 individuals participated in these activities, including three persons with disabilities. By combining education with creative expression, these initiatives fostered awareness, emotional relief, and community bonding, contributing to both prevention and healing within the refugee camps.



Art Competition in Camp 4EXT (by HI)



Community drama in camp 20 (by IOM)



Role play session by adolescents in camp 17 (by BRAC)

These activities not only served as awareness-raising sessions on human trafficking but also provided psychosocial support, especially for children and adolescents. By engaging participants in creative outlets such as art and drama, the events offered a safe space for expression, emotional relief, and community bonding—contributing to both prevention and healing within the refugee camps.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

IOM and IRC conducted a series of capacity-building sessions to strengthen protection and community resilience. IOM organized training sessions with protection actors in Camps 8E, 8W, 11, 18, and 20/20EXT, focusing on enhancing their understanding and response to protection issues. Meanwhile, IRC oriented central and block-level Community-Based Protection (CBP) members in Camp 13 on social cohesion and peacebuilding, aiming to increase awareness and promote resilience within the community. A total of 162 participants took part in these sessions, including 118 men and 44 women.



A workshop with community-based protection members in camp 13 (by IRC)

RALLY

BNWLA organized rallies in Camps 24 and 25 to commemorate the World Day Against Human Trafficking. These rallies brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from the CiC office, Majhis, Sub-Majhis, religious leaders, protection actors, and volunteer groups. The events aimed to raise awareness, foster community solidarity, and reinforce collective commitment to preventing human trafficking within the Rohingya refugee camps. A total of 160 individuals participated in these rallies, including 130 men and 30 women.



Rally organized at the CiC office in camp 24 (by BNWLA)

RADIO BROADCAST

Winrock organized an **anti-trafficking awareness message broadcasting** on community radio Naf (99.2 FM). Key messages on prevention of human trafficking were aired eight times on 30 July 2025. It is estimated that 378,260 Rohingya refugees were reached, including approximately 226,956 women and 151,304 men.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

BNWLA published **an article on the local newspaper Dainik Cox's Bazar** on 30 July 2025. In the article, six key actors in Cox's Bazar reaffirmed their commitment to ending human trafficking, especially in vulnerable coastal and border areas. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) stressed the need for mass awareness, safe migration, and technological tools like helpline 999. The Deputy Commissioner and Police Superintendent emphasized coordinated law enforcement and community engagement under the National Plan of Action. Upazila Administrations in Teknaf and Maheshkhali are actively enforcing anti-trafficking laws, identifying trafficking routes, and strengthening patrols. Lastly, BNWLA highlighted its anti-trafficking efforts for over 30 years, focusing on women and children through legal aid, shelter, advocacy, and awareness, and called for stronger coordination and survivor-centred justice to build a trafficking-free Bangladesh rooted in compassion and human rights.