

JOINT PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

478

Focus Group Discussion (persons reached)

205

Home Visits

472

Key Informant Interviews (persons reached)

52%

Men

48%

Women

5%

People with disabilities

	Female	Male
Children (0-17)	0%	1%
Adult (18-59)	45%	45%
Elderly (60+)	3%	6%

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 1,125,883* 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.

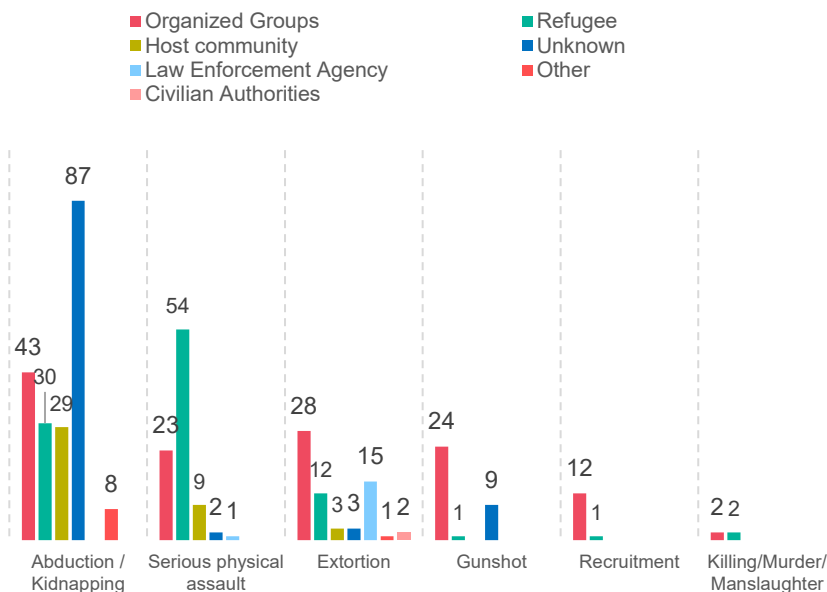
Executive summary: Incidents of abductions and kidnappings rose by 91% while the number of reported killings dropped significantly to 4 reported cases. Competition among criminal groups operating in the Teknaf camps and surrounding areas has led to a sharp increase in serious protection incidents, including physical assaults, extortion, and abductions. Ransom demands have reportedly reached as high as 600,000 BDT. A total of 427 individuals have relocated from Camp 24 during the reporting period, citing safety concerns. Gathering for the purpose of recruitment, repatriation and camp elections persisted throughout the reporting period with reports in 17 camps. Concerns continued to be raised by refugees on the accountability and functionality of the 5 selected members to represent Rohingyas.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

401 serious security incidents¹ directly affecting 475 Rohingya refugees were recorded across all 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf during the third quarter of 2025. These included abduction/kidnapping (197), serious physical assault (89), extortion (64), gunshots/suspected use of firearms (34) recruitment² (13) and killing/murder/ manslaughter (4).

Reported protection incidents increased by 41% while the number of affected refugees decreased (5%) in comparison to the second quarter of 2025. The overall security environment remains stable as the truce among organized groups holds. However, the number of abductions and kidnappings increased by 91% while serious physical assaults rose by 62% in comparison to last quarter. The growing influence and competition of criminal groups in Teknaf and its surrounding areas have exacerbated the safety environment for refugees particularly in camps 24, 26 and Nayapara Registered Camp. Suspected use of firearms

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 September 2025 - UNHCR Data portal link available [here](#)

and reported gunshots tripled in comparison to quarter 2 with reports of daylight shootings in Teknaf. While the number of reported recruitment incidents decreased by 57%, recruitment related meetings continued to be reported with ARSA organising gatherings to encourage community members to fight against the Arakan Army. Coercive tactics and methods of intimidation continue to be used to force refugees to take part in the armed conflict in Rakhine. Organized groups were responsible for 33% of the total number of incidents in the camps followed by refugees (25%) who were mainly involved in cases of physical assaults, abductions and extortion. Unknown individuals accounted for 24% out of which 22% correspond to cases of abduction and kidnappings where the perpetrators profile couldn't be established.

Killings significantly decreased by 67% in comparison to last quarter with 4 killings verified. Two of these incidents were allegedly attributed to organized groups including the killing of a young refugee male (27) who was abducted and subjected to severe physical torture. His family managed to pay some of the ransom via a local Mobile Financial Service (MFS) shop using the bKash application but upon release, he died as a consequence of the injuries. The other case involved a group of unidentified individuals who forced a 43-year-old male refugee to come outside of his shelter. He denied and was forcefully dragged out and physically attacked with sharp weapons. Refugees were allegedly involved in two of the reported killings. In one case, a 17-year-old male refugee from Kutupalong Registered Camp was murdered in Naikhongchhari, Bandarban—approximately two kilometers from the camp—by another refugee. The motive behind the killing remains unclear. In a separate incident, a 36-year-old female refugee residing in Nayapara Registered Camp was found unconscious in her home and later died at a hospital. Allegations suggest her daughter was engaged in a relationship with her stepfather. A murder investigation has been launched, and the case has been filed at Teknaf Police Station.

Incidents of **abductions and kidnappings** nearly doubled compared to the previous quarter and continued to be the most reported security incident with accounts of multiple ransom demands by organized groups such as Nabi Hossain, ARSA, and RSO. Involvement of criminal groups, refugees and host community members was also reported: in 87 of the incidents of abduction the profile of the perpetrator remained unknown. Ransom demands continue to range from BDT 20,000 to 500,000. In some instances, refugees have resorted to abduction as a means of securing ransom to repay **gambling-related debts**. Financial insecurity and limited economic opportunities have contributed to the rise of offline and online gambling. High ransom demands in many cases was also linked to retaliatory violence between rival factions of organized groups and criminal groups and attempts to settle financial debts incurred as part of illegal deals (drug deals).

Recruitment and refugee mobilization activities continued during the reporting period with 47 gatherings reported in 17 camps. This included gatherings led by organised groups with the communities and internal meetings by organized groups covering topics of recruitment, repatriation and camp elections. ARSA's visibility and movement within some camps seemed to increase notably; they allegedly organised gatherings in camps 9, 18, 20 to encourage community members to fight against the Arakan Army. Some of these meetings were led by Moulavi Mohammed, a resident of the host community. Discussions focused on the mobilization of individuals to Myanmar and current challenges posed by the monsoon season, including limited access to food and shelter. It was noted that those mobilized during this period would undergo training only and wouldn't engage in combat operations.

A meeting was allegedly held in Camp 17 with camp commanders from various camps to discuss recruitment strategies. Emphasis was placed on the importance of recruiting volunteers and educated youth. In Camp 19, an ARSA leader reportedly targeted educated Rohingya youth, urging them to resign from NGO positions and join the group. In some camps, ARA was seen to be engaging youth, resulting in increased tensions between ARA and ARO. ARSA and RSO were said to have increased their movements and presence during nighttime to demonstrate control across key blocks. Financial incentives were also reported as means to recruit people with promises made at the time of recruitment.

The number of **serious physical assault** incidents also increased by 62% compared to the second quarter. Most of the serious physical assault incidents during the reporting period were linked to violent disputes between refugees (61%) and actions from organized groups (26%). Victims of physical violence were targeted for assault, with some suffering severe beatings and injuries. Cases of physical assaults often overlapped with cases of abduction, on August, members of the Nabi Hossain group abducted a young man from Camp 10 and detained him in a shelter where he was tortured. His family was forced to pay BDT 20,000 for his release. In some cases, refugees had to leave their homes due to threats and physical violence from organized groups or criminal groups. In camp 24, a criminal group from Alikhali attempted to abduct an adolescent refugee but he managed to escape. During the attack, he was assaulted with a knife causing serious injuries.

Reports of **extortion** decreased by 9% but remained a significant concern for communities. Organized groups continue to control and financially exploit refugees by means of collecting "taxes" or "donations" under threats of retaliation or recruitment. In camp 18, for example, two newly arrived Rohingya men were extorted and severely beaten by host community members while collecting firewood outside the camp area. They were then captured by 5 unknown men who demanded 50,000 BDT as ransom for their release. In camp 8W, a teacher was reportedly targeted by members of the

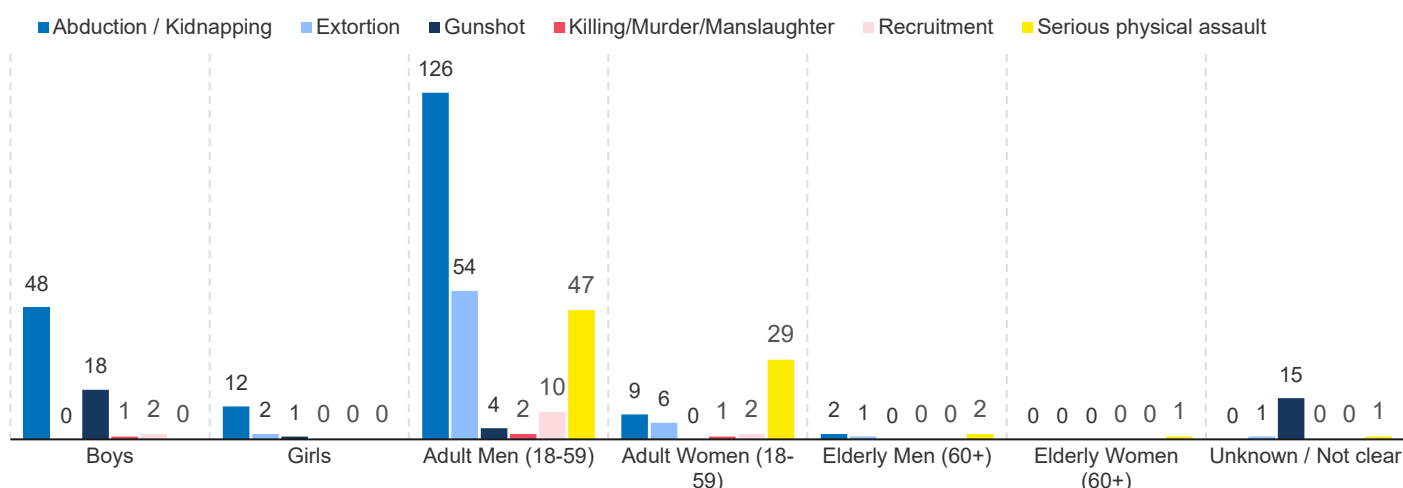
Nabi Hossain group, who sought to recruit him following the closure of a learning centre. After he refused, he was abducted and forced to pay BDT 10,000 to secure his release. Some criminal groups were observed committing mass extortion from large numbers of families in Teknaf camps, demanding “protection money” from them; anyone who did not pay was liable to be victimized by the group.

Teknaf camps saw an alarming rise in insecurity resulting from criminal activity. The growing influence and violent competition among criminal groups operating in Teknaf -both inside the camps and from surrounding host community areas- have resulted in incidents of serious physical assault, extortion and abductions/kidnappings with ransom demands reaching significantly high amounts of up to 600,000 BDT. Armed clashes linked to robberies and confrontations amongst criminal groups were also reported with increased reports of **gunshots and suspected use of firearms**. While groups mainly operated within a single camp and its surroundings, Alam Group has presence across Nayapara and Camp 26 while the Jomil Group operates in the host community. The gaps left by the Safi group, Salman Shah and Putia groups have been filled by other criminal groups for territorial control and drug trafficking. Several joint operations by APBn, RAB, and other agencies were carried out in July and August, including the arrest of a criminal group leader Rubel. However, the release on bail of criminal group leader Saleh in late August led to his group resuming violent criminal activities, and security incidents picked up again in September.

Between July and August 2025, after the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation’s (RCPR) announcement, **elections** to select representatives for the Rohingyas were held. Only 3,693 refugees were eligible to cast a vote to select a 500-member “Congress of Counselors” who then selected a 41-member “Executive Committee,” intended to serve as the principal leadership and decision-making body. The Committee includes a “President” group comprising five individuals who serve on a six-month rotational basis to represent the refugee community. As a result of the process, four men and one woman were selected for this group. Concerns from the community were raised regarding the lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the election process, as well as the support from government authorities. These issues have led to concerns around promotions of premature returns and repatriation without broad community consensus.

Men and boys continue to be disproportionately affected by security incidents, accounting for 61% and 17% of total victims respectively followed by women 12% and girls 4%. There was a 6% increase on the number of affected children comparison to last quarter attributed to the high number of abductions. Men comprised 64% of abductions and kidnapping victims, followed by boys (27%), girls (6%) and women (5%). Most women were impacted by serious physical attacks as a result of intimate partner violence (IPV), retaliation from organized groups and disputes with other refugees.

Demographic of Serious Protection Incidents*



*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.

**There were 15 cases related to gunshots or suspected use of firearms, 1 reported incident of serious physical assault and 1 extortion incident involving persons for whom gender and age could not be determined.

Theft and robbery, particularly of food rations, personal belongings, and livestock, especially after dark continued to be reported. Night patrolling by refugees continued to be a common practice while access to smartphones and internet in some parts of the camps has made **online gambling** increasingly available to young people. Game credits and points in online-gambling platforms can be transferred between users and even across different camps or countries. This

widespread exchange contributes to an increase in gambling activities and resulting in significant economic losses. Most of these transactions are carried out discreetly, making regulations and monitoring very challenging.³

Secondary displacements⁴:

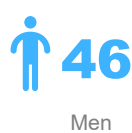
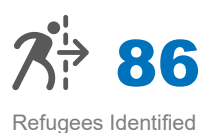
Top 10 population movements within the camps

From Camp	# HH	# of Refugees
Camp 24	97	427
Camp 2W	31	76
Camp 2E	24	50
Camp 11	14	44
Camp 22	14	38
Camp 26	14	31
Camp 13	13	39
Camp 7	12	19
Camp 10	11	32
Camp 25	11	48

Safety concerns and lack of security networks triggered movements of refugees towards perceived safer areas or areas with more availability of services across the camps. On occasions, self-relocation happened within the camps or across camps, mostly spontaneously without the formal involvement of authorities. In **camp 24**, a total of 97 household comprising 427 people relocated to other camps. Increased presence of criminal groups, eviction threats (mainly from host communities) and increasing cases of abductions forced refugees to relocate. A woman, for example, moved to Camp 21 after the abduction of her husband seeking for protection near where her relatives live. Movements from camps 2W and 2E were linked to lack of space and shelter and refugees' desire to be closer to relatives as a protection mechanism. The top 5 camps were refugees relocated to were: camp 14, camp 20E, camp 23, camp 3 and camp 26.

During the reporting period, 86 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 the second quarter of 2025. Most human trafficking victims were men (52%) who were promise paid work but ended up being subjected to forced labour. In addition, 22 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, 89% remained in Cox's Bazar while 11% were reportedly trafficked to other countries (Myanmar, Malaysia, India).

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](#).



CHILD PROTECTION

During the reporting period, the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) documented 981 incidents of serious child rights violations affecting 1,267 children. Of the 1,267 children, 986 were boys, 184 were girls, and the sex of the other 97 remains unknown. Of the reported incidents, 192 have been verified and another 40 confirmed to have occurred to a reasonable level probability⁵. Recruitment and/or use of children was the most often reported violation with 348 incidents affecting 500 children, of whom 495 were boys and 3 were girls. The sex of the other two remains unknown. A further 137 children were reported to be "at risk of" recruitment. Abduction and/or kidnapping of children was reported in 256 incidents affecting 273 children, of whom 228 were boys and 43 were girls. The sex of the other two remains unknown. Reports of 15 children killed (13 boys, two girls) and 235 children injured (170 boys, 31 girls) due to the actions of armed groups were received during the period.

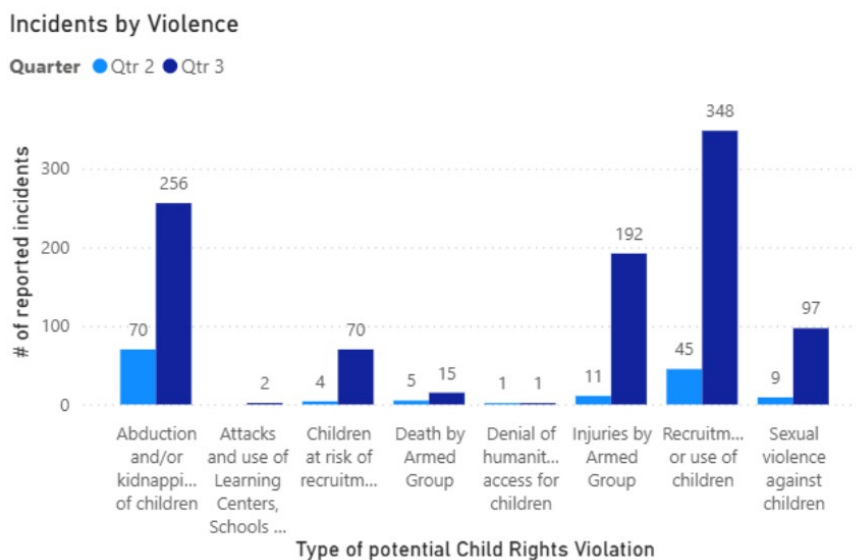
Sexual violence showed an increase in comparison to quarter 2, with 97 incidents affecting 103 children reported. Of the 103 children, 93 were girls, four were boys, and the sex of the other six remains unknown. Attacks on and/or use of

³ Youth Working Group: Rohingya Refugee Response Gambling and Prevention Mechanisms for Youth, *Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) – Key Findings August 2025*

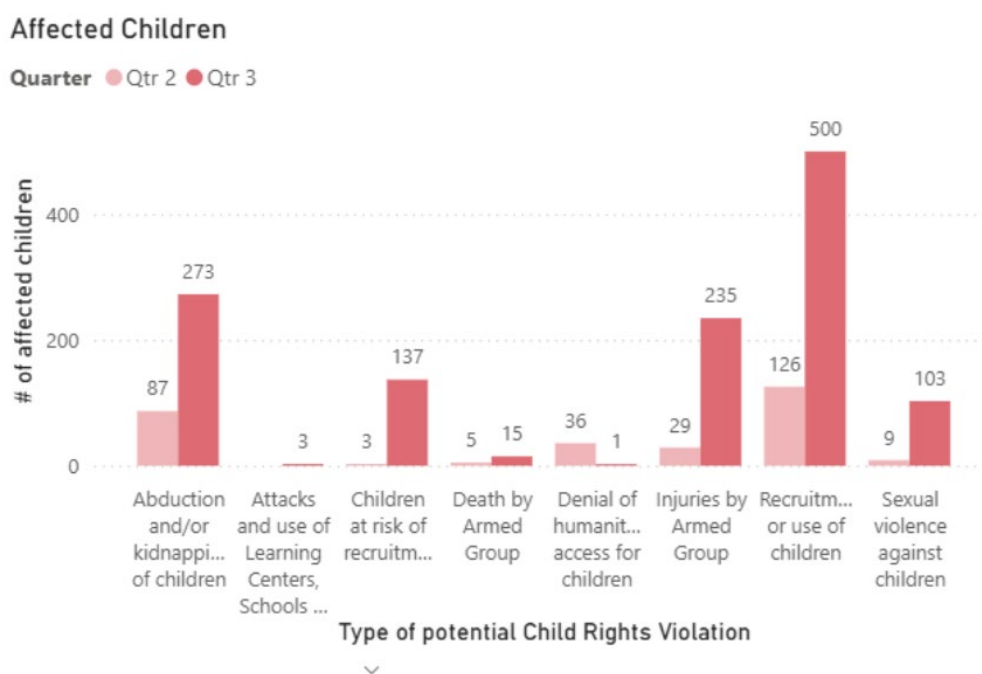
⁴ Secondary displacements refer to refugees moving from their original camp to another camp -or within the camp- due to safety and security concerns, availability of services or to be closer to protection networks (relatives/families).

⁵ Incidents assessed as credible and likely to have occurred based on reliable information, although full verification was not possible

learning centres, schools, and other facilities serving children was reported in two incidents affecting three boys. Serious child rights violations during this quarter were most often reported from Camp 12 (87 incidents), followed by Camp 14 (64), Camp 13 (61), and Camp 16 (60). ARSA, RSO, and ARA, were most often cited as perpetrators. Allegations were also made against [sic] Absar Group, Alam Group, ANDF, Hill/Robber Group, Farid Group, Fotiya Group, Islamic Mahaaz, Mashofi Group, Myanmar Army, Munna Group, Nobi Hossain Group, Nur Kabir group, Rafis Group, Rashil Group, Rubel Group, Saiful Group, Saila Group, Saleh group, Salman Shah Group, Selim Group, and Shofi Group.



Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) shows that children are still exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect across all 33 camps. Data from 508 key informant interviews and 16 focus group discussions with 174 children highlight the pressing need for targeted prevention and response. Recruitment and abduction by armed groups, kidnapping, child labour, child marriage, neglect, and sexual violence remain prevalent, with many children also facing huge psychosocial challenges. Risky behaviours such as gambling put children, especially adolescents, at further risk.



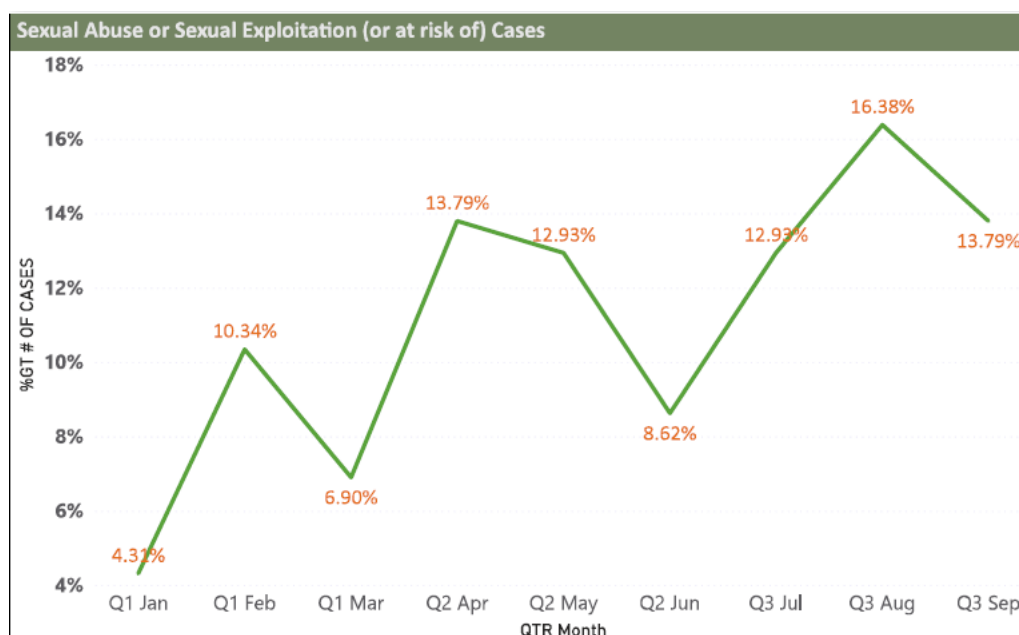
Child recruitment remains a concern in the camp, yet only 35% of key informants were willing to talk about the issue due to its sensitivity and fear of retaliation. Among those who responded, 40% reported knowing of children currently associated with armed groups.

Child labour continued to be reported as a widespread issue and remains consistent with the findings from quarter 2. About 73% of adult key informants (an increase of 6% compared to quarter 2) indicated that children are engaged in work that exposes them to health risks, disrupts their education, and limits recreational opportunities. Data from the

Child Protection Information Management System Plus (CPIMS+) also showed that 20% of the case management entries were related to child labour, with most cases involving boys.

Children who participated in FGD discussions held during this quarter said that child labour is widespread across sites, with boys visible in public, high-risk and physically demanding jobs—working in tea stalls and shops, carrying cylinders/sacks/bricks, assisting in construction, driving tom-toms/rickshaws, delivering rations, fishing, and in small workshops. Girls in the other hand, work in unpaid domestic work, water/firewood collection, tailoring or handicrafts, and accompanying mothers in vending. Notably, one FGD included a generic reference to coercion of children into smuggling, drug trafficking, or prostitution.

Child survivors of GBV remained a concern in the camps, with 27% of key informants reporting that children are at risk of or affected by sexual violence—a 2% increase in comparison to quarter 2. The CPIMS+ data for the reporting period also indicates a rise in the average number of reported cases compared to the previous quarter.



Gambling among children and adolescents in the camps is rising—driven largely by mobile-based betting, peer influence, and hopes of quick earnings. Boys (mainly 10–21) gamble daily or weekly, often spending 100–3000+ BDT from family money, their own earnings, borrowing, or selling valuables, with games taking place in shops, homes, and secluded spots. Reported harms are significant: disrupted schooling and dropouts, family conflict and domestic violence, deepening poverty from losses, anxiety/depression, and links to theft and other crimes.

This quarter’s FGDs with children show persistent stress among adolescents mainly driven by household poverty, disrupted schooling, unsafe/long routes, and crowded living spaces. These symptoms continue to manifest as persistent worry, irritability, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating. Children emphasized the importance of maintaining safe spaces near their homes, where they can access support while actively involving their caregivers.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Reports of GBV cases increased by 7% in comparison to quarter 2, as captured by Gender Based Violence Information Management System data. Field observations, focus group discussions, and Camp Focal Point (CFP) feedback indicate that the rise in cases is primarily linked to reduction of GBV risk mitigation due to fund cuts, intensifying household stress, erosion of community protection networks, and worsening economic conditions. As financial insecurity deepens, families face reduced coping capacities, increasing the likelihood of domestic tensions escalating into violence. Out of the GBV survivors, 3% were divorced and 4% were widowed, highlighting the specific vulnerabilities of women who lack household or social support structures. Women and Girls are often targeted for exploitation, coercion, and abuse as they struggle to secure their daily needs amid limited livelihood opportunities.

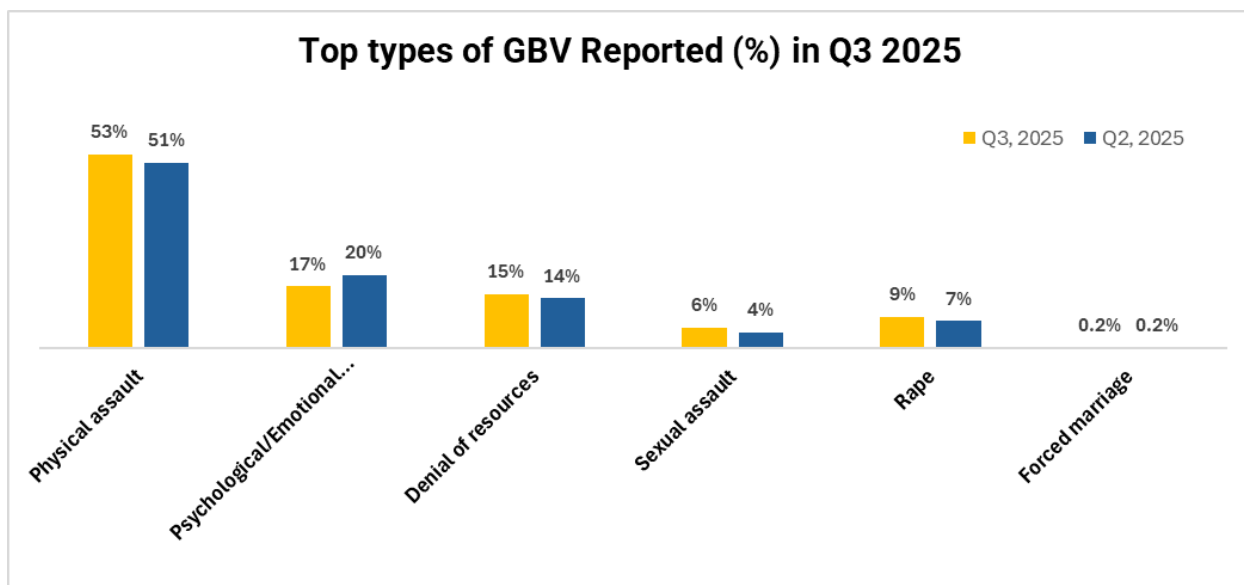
During the reporting period, **physical violence** increased by 2%, accounting for **53% of all reported GBV cases**, which could be attributed to escalating household conflicts amid worsening economic strain and reduced aid. GBV focal points reported cases of increased disputes over food, debt, and household decisions increasingly turning violent as men’s loss of income and authority fuels need for control and frustration. There were reports of weapon use (household hard utensils) during domestic altercations together with coerced reconciliations mediated done by informal leaders which

continue to perpetuate impunity. This trend highlights deepening social distress and the weakening protection structures, underscoring the need for sustained psychosocial support, conflict resolution efforts, and male engagement in non-violent behavior change.

Community feedback indicated a spike in protection-driven marriages among new arrivals and a rise in polygamy, creating unstable, resource-strained households and heightening risks of coercion and violence. In one FGD, a woman reported that her husband moved to another camp -where he is currently living in- but is still collecting food on behalf of the family, leaving her without resources to feed the children. **Psychological and emotional abuse decreased by 3%** compared to the previous quarter. Field insights suggest that this decline reflects reduced reporting rather than an actual improvement. Normalization of coercive control, compounded by lack of livelihood opportunities, has led survivors to deprioritize seeking psychosocial support as physical safety and income generation become more immediate survival needs. GBV focal points continue to identify emotional abuse as a pervasive form of violence, often embedded within physical and sexual abuse. Some survivors reported persistent intimidation, humiliation, and restrictions on movement or access to resources. In several accounts, women described being threatened with harm to their children if they sought assistance, underscoring how psychological abuse operates as a tool of control. Beyond households, the camp environment remains challenging with the growing influence of organized groups, coercion linked to debt and aid resources, and fear of retaliation collectively heighten women’s sense of insecurity. This broader climate of intimidation deepens emotional distress while simultaneously discouraging reporting and help-seeking.

Denial of resources increased by **1%**, marking a continuation of restrictive practices due to harmful cultural beliefs that limit women’s autonomy and reinforce gender inequality. Women and girls have reported being denied access to basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education, often under the pretext of protection or control. Many cases involve financial coercion, where male relatives withhold income or force the sale of personal belongings to meet household expenses. In some camps, women reported mortgaging ration cards to secure short-term relief, only to face further exploitation later. A woman reported having to stay with her husband as she had no other alternative: no money or any other place to go. This reflects the broader reality of how economic deprivation and control over resources serve as a cause and contributing factor of gender-based violence.

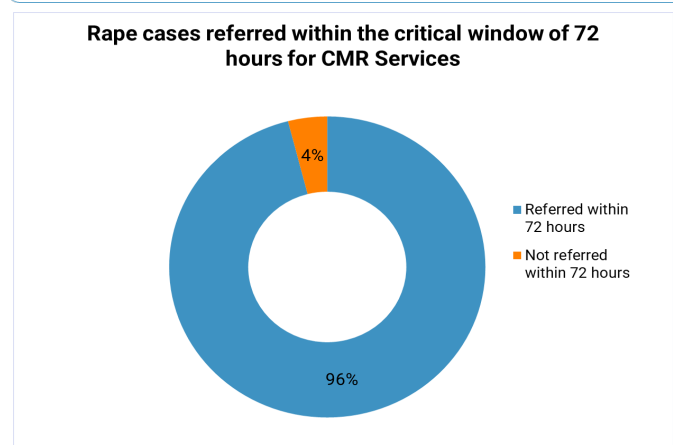
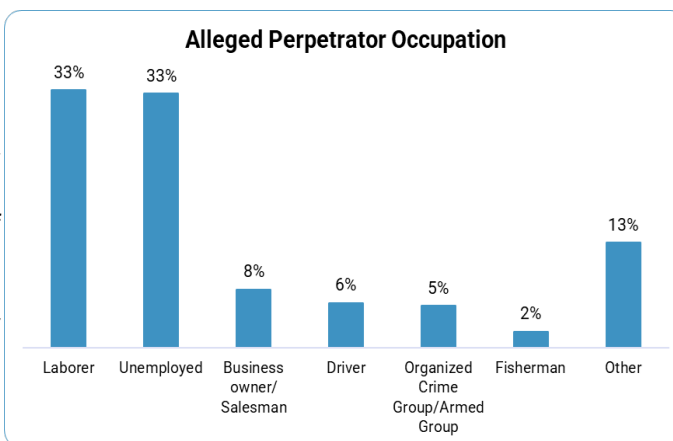
Sexual violence: rape and sexual assault increased each by **2%**, signaling both increased frequency and severity. GBV focal points and findings from FGD identified sexual violence as a prevalent form of GBV, though it remains underreported. Reports indicate a growing involvement of organized group members in such incidents, with 5% of perpetrators identified as members of these groups marking an increase from previous quarters. Incidents often involve abduction, rape and extortion, with survivors and their families being forced to pay for release. Marital rape emerged as a growing concern with participants reporting that such cases often go unrecognized and unaddressed due to prevailing social norms, fear of stigma, and limited awareness of marital rape as a form of gender-based violence.



While **forced marriage** accounted for only **0.2% of reported cases**, qualitative evidence confirms that it remains widely prevalent and underreported. Early marriages are often justified by families as a protective measure against insecurity or sexual violence. However, these arrangements are driven primarily by economic hardship and social pressure, with Majhis and religious leaders sometimes facilitating secret ceremonies. The consequences are severe: loss of education, restricted mobility, reproductive health risks, and lifelong cycles of dependency.

During the reporting period, **57% of survivors** declined legal services, signaling ongoing erosion of trust and persistent barriers in justice pathways. This reluctance was compounded by heightened community interference in GBV cases through mediation, intimidation by local power holders, and recurrent breaches of confidentiality during settlements. Together, these dynamics heightened fears of retaliation, further discouraging help-seeking and entrenching a climate of silence and impunity. Moreover, the growing influence of organized groups has further weakened accountability; in some camps, these actors mediate GBV cases through informal mechanisms that trade justice for monetary compensation. Such practices sideline the GBV referral pathway hindering access to lifesaving services, including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). At the same time, gaps in law-enforcement responsiveness and ongoing security risks, especially after dark near latrines and water points—continue to expose women and girls to harassment and assault.

Perpetrator profiles remain consistent with previous quarters; 72% of incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners, 7% by neighbors or family friends, and 7% by other family members. Notably, 88% of all reported incidents occurred within the survivor’s residence, confirming the home as the most unsafe environment for women and girls in the camps.



*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 3, incidents affecting social cohesion increased in comparison to the last quarter with 20 incidents involving 222 individuals. There was however a 51% decrease of refugee’s involvement in incidents affecting peaceful coexistence while host community members involvement tripled.

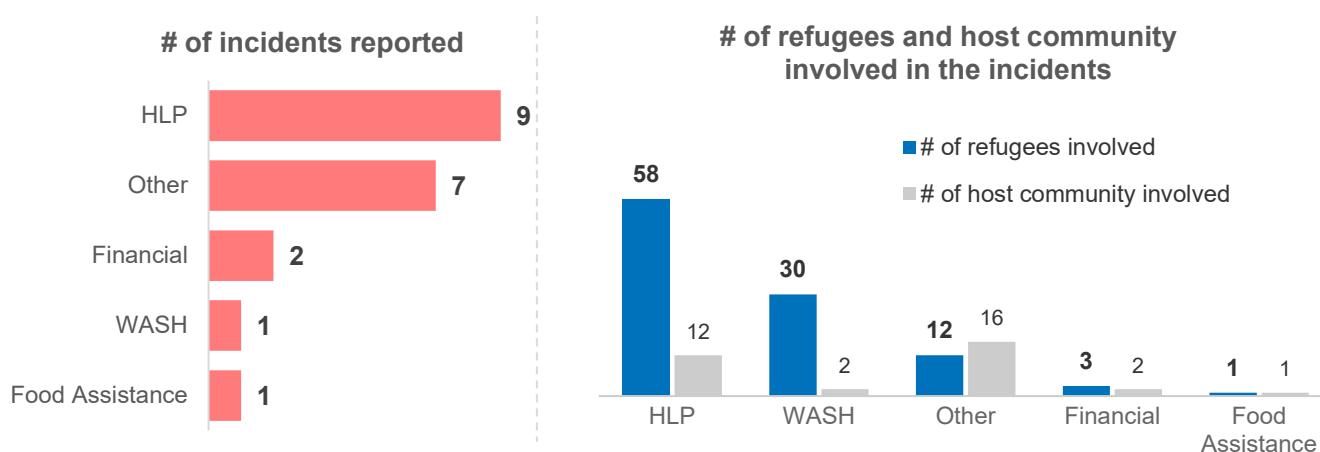
Competition over limited resources, overcrowding, and influence from organized groups and criminal networks are the main drivers for social conflicts. In Teknaf the refugee-host relations continued to worsen with influence of host communities marked by a power imbalance in rental demands and dynamics of criminal groups operating within and outside camp boundaries. The RCPR was reported to have enhanced mobilization efforts to increase the number of members and the roles between those perceived to be active or inactive. In certain camps they created a “peace committee” without clarity of its role or functions with proposals of mediation -including of protection issues- directly done by Dil Mohamed.

The primary drivers of social cohesion incidents continued to be Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues. The reported incidents are linked to evictions and high demands of rental payments. In camp 9, for example, a host community landowner threatened two Rohingya families with eviction, claiming the land was needed for expansion. One family was asked to relocate while the other was offered a site in a high-risk landslide area. In camp 1E, a woman has been facing challenges after her husband left; the landowner is attempting to evict her and her family if she doesn’t pay 25,000 BDT. In camp 12, another family was also requested to pay 10,000 BDT to keep his house. Newly arrived refugees continue to face challenges due to administrative constraints in the of allocated formal shelters and depend on relatives, rental arrangements, or informal land purchases for housing. The informal nature of these arrangements significantly increases protection risks and fuels social tensions, particularly impacting women, older persons, and individuals with disabilities.

Incidents reported under the category “other” included an incident in camp 9 where a 25-year-old Rohingya man was physically assaulted by a group of host community members after he was accused of stealing a mobile phone from a host community woman. In another incident, Rohingya individuals were found buying and repackaging rations from other beneficiaries. Host community members who were controlling the ration trade in the camp confronted the group

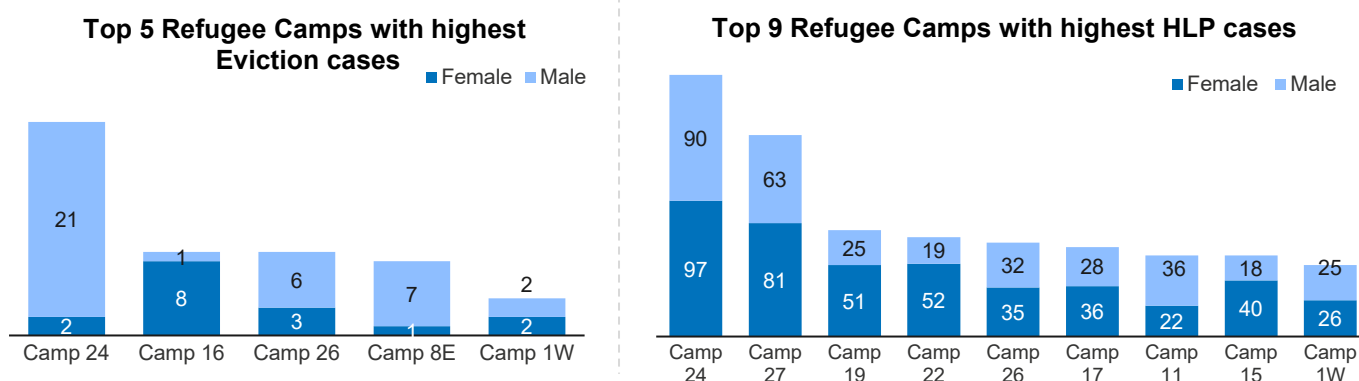
and seized the purchased goods valued at approximately 70,000 BDT and warned them not to buy rations from that area again. There were reported cases of physical confrontations over the use of roads and public spaces among refugees in camps 9 and 16.

Financial constraints were also reported to have caused physical violence between refugees and host communities: a Rohingya shopkeeper was physically assaulted by a host community member who refused to pay for the food items he took. Another altercation was reported of a refugee assaulted by a host community member and another Rohingya individual following a financial dispute in camp 9. Limited access to livelihoods opportunities and lack of resources were also identified as factors eroding social cohesion. In camp 21, a 24-year-old refugee gave his ration card to a host community member in exchange for money or something of value and has been pressured by this host community member to provide ration supplies since, the ration card hasn't been returned and has caused a conflict between the two parties.



Disputes over access to water points were also reported during this period, in camp 15, host community individuals received 4000 BDT for the provision of the wash facility space, but refugees haven't been able to access it in a month. The refugee family has been warned not to escalate the incident with additional threats of criminal groups controlling the area. Infrastructure gaps such as damaged street lighting, and poor drainage further increased disputes between refugees over neighbourhood issues, using WASH facilities.

A total of 1,443 Housing, Land and Property (HLP) cases were recorded across the camps. As in the previous quarter, the cases include relocation, evictions (including threats of eviction), rental disputes and challenges in accessing pathway and services. Relocation remains the main HLP issue, making up over 40% of all reported cases. This reflects continued pressure on families to relocate because of security concerns, lack of resources and/or the need to be closer to relatives as a protection mechanism. Shelter-related disputes accounted for 21% of the total caseload highlighting ongoing struggles to access, maintain, or share adequate housing in overcrowded shared areas. Access-related disputes, including shelter pathways and public facilities (17%), indicate persistent tension around space usage and shared infrastructure. WASH-related disputes (4%) were also reported as a concerns, often linked to space competition and inadequate facilities. Newly arrived refugees were reportedly facing more precarious occupancy arrangements as they are currently staying in overcrowded spaces with relatives and are being requested higher immediate costs with rental claims nearly twice as higher compared to other refugee households.



 **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Between July to September, 9,628 refugees (56% women and girls) benefited from legal services. Services included legal counselling, assistance to file case with the police and in courts, as well as court representation, and release from detention after intervention by legal actors. Among these, 6,221 refugees were provided with legal counselling, 181 were assisted with filing legal complaints in police stations and courts, as well as obtaining the camp exit permits from CiCs. During the reporting period, 89 refugees were released from detention and 88 refugees were represented in legal proceedings in court while 178 refugees were assisted to visit their relatives in Cox's Bazar prison.

As part of alternative dispute resolution mechanism, legal partners provided mediation support to 1,540 cases (involving 3,074 refugees), 77% of them were successfully resolved. Legal assistance was provided mostly in cases where refugees were victims of abduction, physical assault, human trafficking and family related disputes. However, informal justice systems, led by Majhi's and some allegedly by ARSA-linked individuals, continued to be reported in some camps as a dispute resolution alternative. In some instances, Majhi's and ARSA members forcibly intervened in disputes asking for money as "fees" for their service in offering resolution. Different organized groups were also reportedly interfering directly in community mediation with the purpose of using the process to demonstrate influence and recruit members.

During quarter 3, a total of 13,227 refugees were reached through 776 group legal awareness sessions, where lawyers informed refugees and responded to questions on legal issues, including legal procedures and available legal services in the camp. Corruption continues to be raised as a major obstacle in accessing informal justice mechanisms whether it is practiced by Majhi's, APBN or other non-humanitarian actors. This results in refugees' increased perceptions of outcomes to their claims being determined by payment rather than a fair process.

 **ACCESS TO SERVICES**

The number of incidents reported in accessing services slightly decreased by 6% affecting 873 individuals. In the previous quarter, there was a high number of affected refugees linked to access to healthcare services as several household reported being ill with symptoms of high fever, joint pain, severe headaches, extreme fatigue, insomnia, vomiting, and skin irritation compounded by rising cases of chickenpox, measles, diarrhoea, and hepatitis C. Denial or unequal access to services was most frequently observed within the SMSD, Food, Health, and WASH sectors during the reporting period. Incidents commonly involved delayed or absent follow-up by service providers, absence of shelter repair support or challenges with registration and documentation.

Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) needs were identified across multiple camps, including damaged shelters, collapsed staircases and roads, deteriorating poles and tarpaulins, as well as other critical infrastructure issues. In Camp 25, refugees reported that a bridge collapsed approximately six months ago, significantly limiting mobility and posing safety risks, especially during the rainy season. In Camp 1E, residents highlighted challenges in movement due to a steep slope and uneven road pathway within their block. The community emphasized the urgent need for a staircase to facilitate safe passage. Cases of ongoing shelter and infrastructure issues that remain unresolved despite repeated complaints were reported in several camps. These include persistent roof leaks damaging refugees' personal belongings, structural damage to shelters such as cracked walls and torn tarpaulins, and hazardous road conditions due to broken bamboo slabs over drains.

Several families are facing challenges accessing food assistance due to challenges in registration data or missing documentation. Some new arrivals reported being unfamiliar with camp procedures and raised challenges in collecting food rations. Delays in LPG distribution were also reported in several camps, and this has caused difficulties in cooking. A refugee woman from camp 1E was unable to access food assistance because her name in the registration profile was inactivated as she had to leave the camp due to threats by organized groups a year ago. Some families with specific needs reported not receiving fresh food assistance and those that did, expressed difficulty in covering costs to transport them.

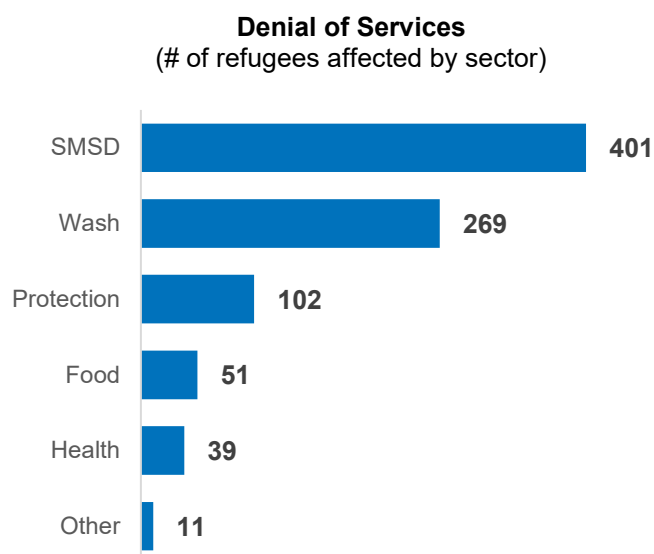
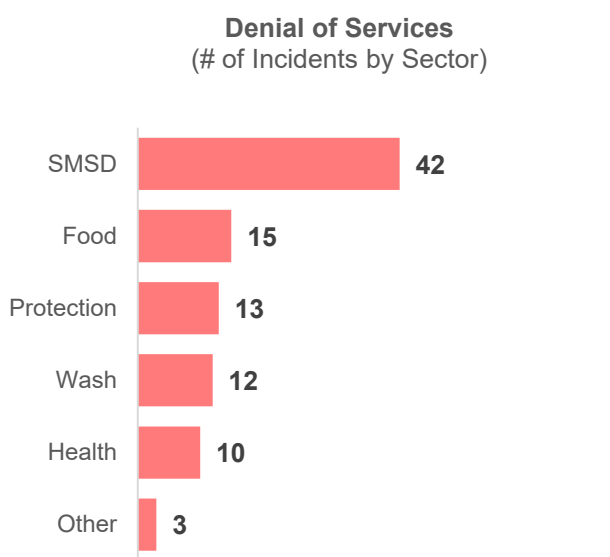
Concerns related to the issuance of new registration cards, registration related to newborns, separation when a member of a family gets married, relocation from one block to another within the camp or relocation to and from another camp were reported under "Protection". In camp 25, the case of a child being excluded from data cards due to lack of birth record was reported. Lack of solar streetlights compounded with the presence of criminal groups have limited movement of refugees to access essential services, particularly at night. In camp 1W, women and girls reported not being able to

access latrines and WASH services due to absence of solar lamps and increased incidents of theft if households are left unattended.

A total of 12 incidents linked to access to WASH services were reported. In Camp 11, a community latrine was reportedly occupied by a 55-year-old refugee restricting access for others. Although the latrine was originally built for shared community use, the individual has now claimed sole ownership of the facility and has fenced off the latrine with a net for the use of his family. In camp 10, a head Majhi occupied a community latrine and restricted neighbouring refugees from using it; families are now facing difficulties in accessing sanitation facilities. In a separate incident, a refugee with ties to an organized group in Camp 10 allegedly bribed the block Majhi and occupied a community latrine next to his shelter forcing other refugees to seek other toilet facilities.

There were 10 health access incidents reported by refugees. In camp 15, a pregnant woman reported not getting her health book after requesting it in July and needs it to be able to receive services and treatment for her upcoming delivery. In camp 25, a refugee with a disability experiencing severe neck pain reported that the hospital staff did not conduct a thorough examination and instead dismissed his concerns, advising him to go home and perform physical exercises. Another refugee from Camp 1E reported living with a chronic C virus infection for the past five years. He has received treatment at various facilities both inside and outside the camp. His health condition has deteriorated significantly, and he is currently surviving through regular blood dialysis with limited options for specialized medical treatment. Delays in provision of treatment and delivery of medicine was reported across 4 camps in 7 separated incidents.

Challenges reported on access to “other” services involved applications for permission to relocate and an incident of a refugee family that was separated when crossing into Bangladesh.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prevent all gatherings attempting to coerce or intimidate refugees to return to Myanmar to ensure the principle of voluntary repatriation. Authorities should intensify patrols to deter all recruitment efforts by any actor, as such activities that undermine the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps. Recruitment or threats of recruitment for combat, especially of children, must be strictly prohibited in the camps. This includes monitoring suspected locations and verifying reports of recruitment meetings. 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”*.
- Ensure that community-led structures are freely chosen by refugees. Representation and leadership of refugees should not be dictated or imposed through coercive tactics. Credible and accountable refugee representation enhances stability, safety and security, and helps uphold the humanitarian and civilian character of the camps.
- Strengthen measures to ensure respect for the rule of law including through the presence of law enforcement agencies inside the camps. Enforcement of law and order should prevent 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 refugees' safety.
- Increase monitoring and responsiveness of law enforcement agencies inside and in the surroundings of Teknaf camps by establishing permanent APBn posts in strategic locations including blocks C, P, H, and I of Nayapara Registered Camp. Repair the damaged fencing along Teknaf camp boundaries to prevent criminal groups from accessing the camps: significant damage has been reported in the boundary area of block E in Camp 24 (adjacent to Camp 26).
- Support and empower Rohingya leaders, including among women and 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 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.
- 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.
- Expand and diversify livelihood opportunities, 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.
- Advocate for the full registration of new arrivals as well as their full access to individual documentation and all services, especially shelter.

END