

JOINT PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

495

Focus Group Discussion (persons reached)

293

Home Visits

659

Key Informant Interviews (persons reached)

54%
Men

46%
Women

11%
People with disabilities

	Female	Male
Children (0-17)	1%	1%
Adult (18-59)	41%	48%
Elderly (60+)	4%	5%

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.

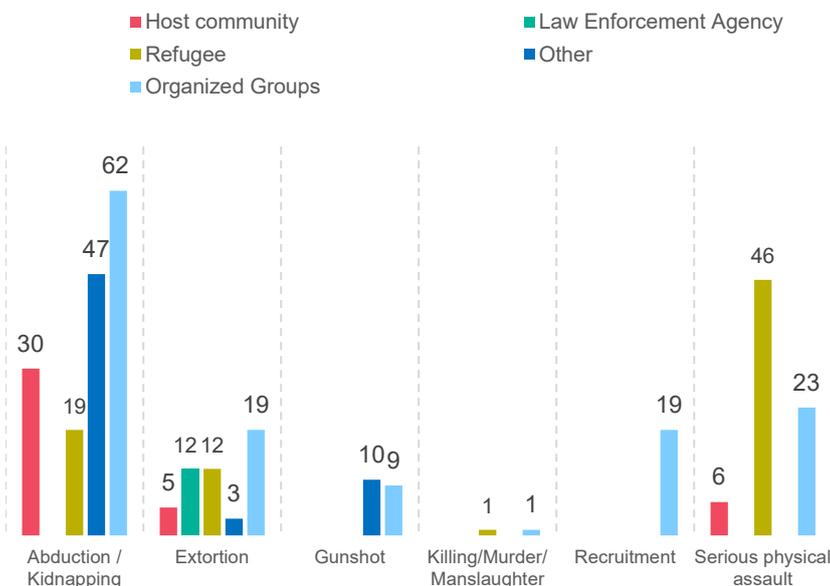
Executive summary: Incidents of abductions and kidnappings remained the most frequently reported protection concern, while reports of killings decreased to two cases. Throughout the reporting period, ARSA, Islamic Mahaz, RSO, RCPR, and UCR conducted gatherings and meetings in at least 15 camps, aiming to mobilize refugees to oppose the Arakan Army and to discuss issues related to repatriation. The presence of criminal groups in the Teknaf camps further intensified. In December, around 30 members of the Saleh and Safi groups were reportedly patrolling Camp 26 while carrying firearms. Additionally, 235 families relocated from Camp 24 due to fear and insecurity. Refugees continued to express concerns regarding the newly appointed committees inside the camps.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

324 serious security incidents¹ directly affecting 510 Rohingya refugees were recorded across all 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf during the last quarter of 2025. These included abduction/kidnapping (158), serious physical assault (75), extortion (51), recruitment² (19), gunshots /suspected use of firearms (18) and killing/murder/ manslaughter (2). **Reported protection incidents** decreased by 19% while the number of affected refugees increased slightly by 7% compared to the third quarter of 2025. The overall security environment remains similar to that reported the previous quarter.

Recruitment and cross-border mobilization activities intensified during the reporting period: ARSA, Islamic Mahaz, RSO, RCPR and UCR³ held 27 reported gatherings in camps 1E, 1W, 4, 4E, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 25 to encourage refugees to fight against the Arakan Army (AA). Dil Mohammed allegedly led 9 of these meetings through RCPR asking Rohingyas to participate in the Rohingya

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](#)

³ The United Council of Rohang—later renamed the United Council of Rohingya (UCR)—is a body composed of five Rohingya individuals who claim to represent the Rohingya population in Bangladesh. The five representatives ('presidents') were chosen through a process in which approximately 3,700 selected individuals participated in the vote. Humanitarian actors have expressed concerns about the nature of the selection process.

Defence Forum (RDF) and under the RCPR leadership. In a meeting in Camp 10, Dil Mohammed allegedly stated that RCPR will begin collecting detailed refugee information based on their original Myanmar documents to support verification processes for eventual repatriation. In another meeting in camp 9, ARSA and RSO, instructed that young and physically fit men from every household had to join them to fight, and those who refused were required to provide financial support to the groups.

During this quarter, 19 cases of **recruitment** were reported. Men and youth were particularly targeted with alleged movements of groups of men leaving the camps and crossing the border into Myanmar. The reasons behind some of these movements could not be verified. In many cases, family members only learned that their relatives had crossed into Myanmar after the movement had already occurred. Several individuals reported being pressured over extended periods to work with organized groups or to travel to Myanmar to participate in the armed conflict. Those who refused were reportedly beaten, threatened, or warned not to disclose the incident. As a coping mechanism, many affected individuals are staying outside the camps, living with relatives or in host community areas. Community members reported increased night-time activities by organized groups, including meetings held at mosques and house visits to recruit and extort refugees.

In a meeting in camp 9, UCR reportedly formed a committee in every Majhi block in all camps, consisting of four members per block to strengthen coordination and support efforts toward repatriation of Rohingya refugees. This **changes in leadership** roles in the camps and changes to the Majhi structures remain a concern to refugees that are pressured to attend meetings or are being coerced into joining this committees. Additional topics covered in some of the reported meetings included camp safety and community-based justice mechanisms. These groups also emphasized unity and non-discrimination among Rohingya, regardless of their place of origin in Myanmar—whether Rathedaung, Maungdaw, or Buthidaung—and encouraged the reporting of incidents to be done through them in relation to online gambling and drug dealing within the camps.

In addition, allegedly 22 internal or **closed-door meetings** were organized by ARSA, ARO, Islamic Mahaz, RSO, RCPR and UCR in camps 1E, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 20E, and 25; attendance reportedly reached up to 500 refugee participants in some instances. The groups conducted these meetings with their leadership and members to coordinate the mobilization of refugees. The meetings were also reportedly used as occasions for salary or incentive distribution, ranging from BDT 5,000 to BDT 13,000 per member. For these gatherings, RCPR and other organized groups mobilized participants at both individual and block levels; while most meetings were limited to group members, some also included Majhis and religious leaders. Meetings convened by UCR and RCPR reportedly imposed mandatory participation quotas across camps.

The situation in **Teknaf** continued to worsen affecting the overall safety environment for refugees. By the end of November, two blocks of Camp 24 were completely emptied with approximately 235 families having to relocate. This displacement was reportedly driven by escalating security incidents—including extortion, physical assaults, and abduction threats—allegedly carried out by criminal groups, most notably the Rubia group. The two groups operating in the Nayapara Registered Camp and Camp 26—the Alam Group and the Saleh Group—were reportedly responsible for most of the violent incidents occurring in Teknaf. These criminal networks are increasingly engaging in violent competition for territorial control. On 25 December, for example, approximately 30 members, primarily from the Saleh and Safi groups, were observed—for the first time—patrolling Camp 26 while carrying firearms and walkie-talkies. Although **gunshots and suspected use of firearms** decreased by 44% in comparison to quarter 3, reports were received that some of the criminal groups are using automatic rifles.

Killings decreased with a total of 2 reported incidents; out of which 1 took place in a camp in Ukhiya and 1 in Teknaf. On November, a 29-year-old male refugee was shot dead allegedly by a criminal group in Kutupalong registered camp; he was referred to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where he was declared dead. In a separate incident, a 22-year-old woman was shot in the neck with a pistol by her future brother-in-law. She had reportedly been preparing to travel to Malaysia to marry a man whose family lived in the camp. However, after she received a marriage proposal from another refugee from Teknaf camp, her intended brother-in-law allegedly became suspicious and confronted her. She was taken to the IRC hospital, where she was pronounced dead, and her case was subsequently referred to the Teknaf health authorities for further action. The suspected shooter was arrested by the APBn.

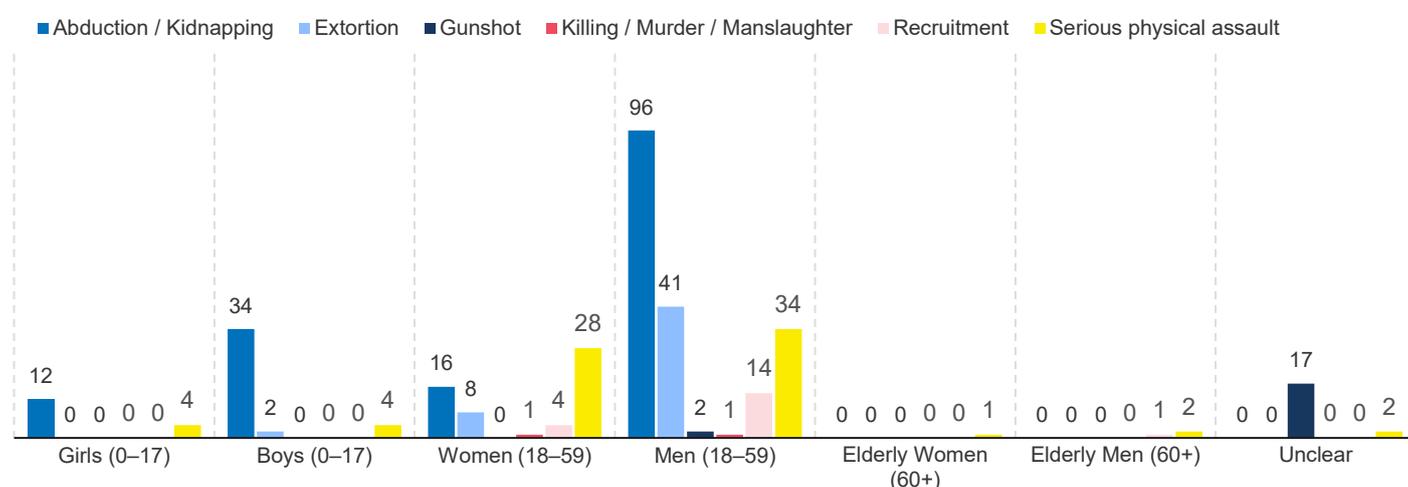
Although incidents of **abductions and kidnappings** declined slightly compared to the previous quarter, family members continue to be forced to pay ransom demanded by organized groups and/or other individuals to have their family members released. While most abduction victims were male—often targeted while traveling outside the camp for work—female victims have also been reported. Some individuals continue to resort to abductions due to debts linked to online gambling. These dynamics have also contributed to theft, family conflict, and financial strain, further heightening community tensions. Some families reported receiving phone calls for ransom, often accompanied by threats of severe physical harm or death if payments were not made. Reported ransom demands ranged from BDT 20,000 to BDT 1,000,000; most families managed to pay between BDT 60,000 and up to BDT 300,000. Families often relied on

borrowing money, selling household assets, or mortgaging ration cards to secure the release of abducted family members. Incidents of volunteer being kidnapped were also reported, on 31 October, for example, a young male was abducted in camp 26 and released after three days following the payment of a ransom.

The number of **serious physical assault** incidents decreased by 16% compared to the third quarter of 2025. These arise from domestic disputes and inter-household conflicts between refugees and with host communities. Some of these incidents resulted in serious injuries requiring medical intervention. Violent disputes between refugees amounted for 61% and actions from organized groups corresponds to 31% while the remaining incidents were attributed to host communities (8%). Cases of physical assaults often overlapped with cases of abduction and kidnapping

Reports of **extortion** decreased by 25% and ranged from families being attacked over unpaid shelter fees to football-related quarrels where, on some occasions, head Majhis were assaulted while intervening. Allegedly, some of the recently formed committees include members who are linked to organized groups and are exerting control over youth and community activities, including charging fees for access to football fields. New arrivals and low-income households remained especially vulnerable to extortion, including demands for rent payments and threats of eviction when they were unable to pay.

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 17 cases related to gunshots or suspected use of firearms and 2 reported incident of serious physical involving persons for whom gender and age could not be determined.

Men and boys continue to be disproportionately affected by all security incidents, accounting for 65% and 14% of total victims respectively followed by women 10% and girls 5% (a total of 6% of affected refugees age and gender couldn't be established). There was a 4% increase on the number of affected men in comparison to last quarter attributed to the high number of abductions - men comprised 61% of abductions and kidnapping victims, followed by boys (21%), women (10%) and girls (8%). Most women during the reporting period were impacted by abductions followed by extortion.

Secondary displacements⁴:

Top 10 population movements within the camps

From Camp	# HH	# of Refugees
Camp 24	235	1,026
Camp 11	15	69
Camp 10	13	54
Camp 26	8	35
Camp 13	9	30
Camp 25	6	28
Camp 16	6	26
Camp 1W	5	23
Camp 19	6	19

Heightened security incidents, along with the need for some refugees to remain close to family members, prompted movements to areas perceived as safer. These self-relocations occurred both within and across camps and were carried out largely spontaneously, without formal involvement from the authorities. In **camp 24**, a total of 235 household comprising 1,026 people relocated to other camps, although the actual number of movements is likely higher, as this figure reflects only cases identified and recorded by partners. Increased activities by criminal groups, eviction threats (mainly from host communities) and cases of abductions and threats forced refugees to relocate.

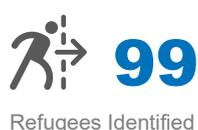
⁴ Secondary displacements refer to refugees moving from their original camp to another camp -or within the camp- due to safety and security concerns, availability of services or to be closer to protection networks (relatives/families).

Movements from camps 11 were linked to risks of landslides while movements from camp 10 were more linked to refugees' desire to be closer to relatives as a protection mechanism. In Camp 10, a woman reported difficulties living alone after her husband left for

Indonesia. She relocated to Camp 17 to stay with her parents for support. The top 5 camps were refugees relocated to were: camp 14, camp 25, camp 12, camp 5 and camp 20.

During the reporting period, 99 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 third quarter of 2025. Most human trafficking victims were men (62%) who were promised paid work but ended up being subjected to forced labour. In addition, 16 children were identified as victims of trafficking. Refugees' homes/shelters were reported as the main sites of initial contact with the traffickers. Seventy-nine per cent of victims were intended for trafficking within Bangladesh, while 21% were reportedly intended for trafficking to other countries, including Myanmar, Malaysia, India, and Indonesia.

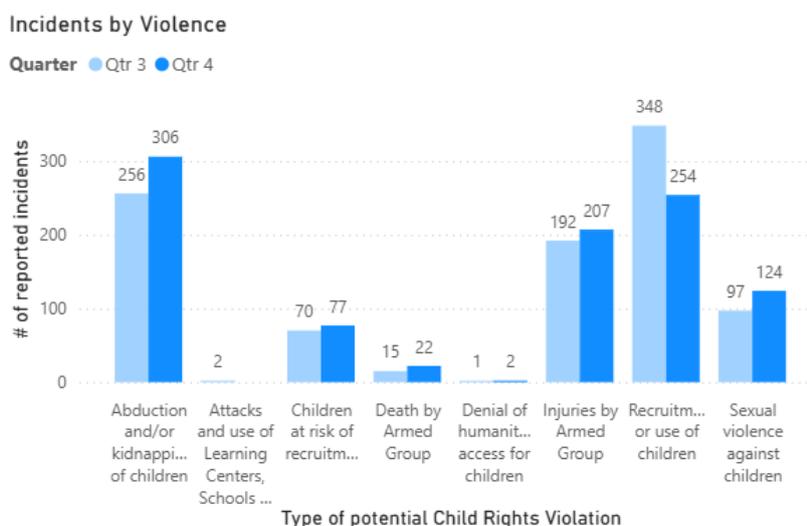
The data in this dashboard is generated only from information communicated by ATWG members and does not necessarily indicate the full extent of trafficking in the camps due to possible underreporting of cases. These statistics may be subject to change. More details in the quarterly Dashboard produced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



CHILD PROTECTION

During the reporting period, the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) documented 991 alleged incidents of serious child rights violations affecting 1,267 children. Of these children, 893 were boys, 237 were girls, and the gender of 137 children could not be determined. As of the reporting cut-off, 611 incidents had been verified, with 36 incidents assessed as having occurred with a reasonable level of probability⁵, in line with established CRMM verification standards.

Abduction and/or kidnapping was also the most frequently reported rights violation for children, with 306 incidents affecting 346 children (264 boys, 59 girls, and 23 children of unknown gender). **Recruitment** and/or use of children was reported in 254 incidents affecting 272 children, the majority of whom were boys (251 boys, 5 girls, and 16 of unknown gender). In addition, 214 children were reported to be at risk of recruitment, underscoring ongoing protection concerns. Reports were also received of 32 children killed (22 boys, 4 girls, and 6 of unknown gender) and 263 children injured (172 boys, 35 girls, and 56 of unknown gender) as a result of violence associated with armed actors.

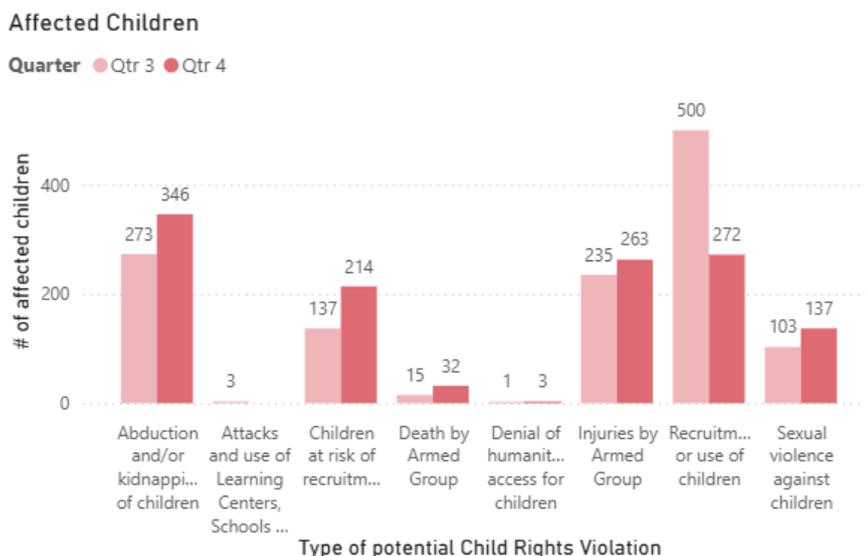


Sexual violence increased by 28% compared to quarter three, with 124 incidents affecting 137 children reported during this period. The majority of survivors were girls (110), while 9 were boys; the gender of 18 children could not be

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

determined. Due to the sensitive nature of these violations and the heightened risks of stigma and retaliation, details are reported in aggregate only.

Denial of humanitarian access affecting children was reported in two incidents, impacting three boys. Serious child rights violations during the quarter were most frequently reported from Camp 12 (87 incidents), followed by Camp 5 (63 incidents) and Camp 14 (55 incidents).



Alleged perpetrators, as reported by primary sources, included a range of armed groups operating in and around the camps. Attribution remains subject to verification, and inclusion does not imply legal determination or responsibility.

Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) shows that children continue to be exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect across all 33 camps. Findings are based on data collected through 448 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 16 focus group discussions (FGDs) involving 181 children. The results highlight a critical need for strengthened and targeted prevention and response interventions.

Multiple child protection risks were reported as prevalent, including child labour, child marriage, neglect, physical and emotional maltreatment, sexual violence, and incidents of kidnapping and recruitment and abduction by armed groups. In addition, many children face significant psychosocial challenges as a result of these overlapping risks.

Child labour continues to be reported as a consistent child protection concern, with approximately 72% of key informants identifying it as prevalent within their communities. Key contributing factors include household poverty (29% for boys and 27% for girls), limited access to education (20% for both boys and girls), cultural acceptance of child labour (11% for boys and 10% for girls), loss of the family breadwinner (11% for boys and 9% for girls), and harmful gender norms (6% for boys and 9% for girls). Children engaged in labour experience stress and fatigue, school dropout, hindered physical growth, and increased vulnerability to drug addiction and involvement in various forms of crime.

Furthermore, 64% of respondents reported cases of child neglect by caregivers. The primary reasons cited for neglect include lack of awareness (22%), domestic violence (19%), unemployment of caregivers (13%), separation of parents (12%), and lack of resources (12%). Psychosocial distress among children is widespread, with 64% of KII respondents reporting that children are experiencing psychosocial problems. In addition, 63% of caregivers reported being unable to adequately care for children due to their own psychosocial challenges.

Children's association with armed groups remains a serious concern across the camps. Around 39% of key informants were willing to discuss this issue, highlighting its sensitivity and the fear surrounding it. Among those who responded, 44% reported knowing children who are currently associated with armed groups, while 48% expressed concern about the ongoing risk of children being recruited by armed groups.

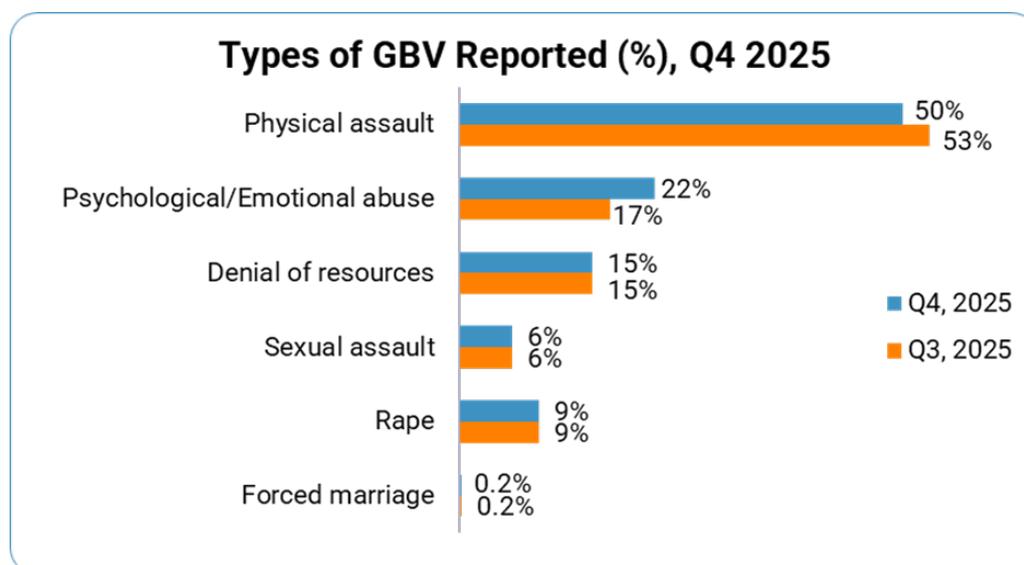
Data from the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) further reinforces that 34% of case management entries were related to neglect, followed by physical abuse (13%), emotional/psychosocial abuse (12%), and child labour (10%), which remained among the top child protection issues during the reporting period. In addition, the CPIMS+ also highlights child marriage (6%), risk of sexual abuse and exploitation (2%), and risk of child trafficking (3%) as ongoing critical protection concerns.

KII responses indicate an increase in child marriage during this quarter, reported at 35% compared to 32% in quarter 3. Poverty (84%) and cultural practices (70%) were identified as the main contributing factors to child marriage. Child survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) remain a major concern across the camps. Approximately 29% of key informants reported that children are at risk of or affected by sexual violence, reflecting a 2% increase compared to 27% from the previous quarter. The CPIMS+ data for the reporting period also indicates a rise in the average number of reported cases compared to the previous quarter.

Children who participated in FGDs during this quarter reaffirmed that child labour remains a prevalent risk across the camps. Boys were reported to be highly visible in public, high-risk, and physically demanding work, including carrying loads, daily labour, working in shops, driving tom-toms/rickshaws, and working in brick kilns. Girls were reported to be engaged mainly in unpaid domestic work, sewing and tailoring, working in shops, collecting firewood and water, domestic work, and agricultural activities.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Reports of GBV cases decreased marginally by 0.1% in comparison to the third quarter of 2025, based on the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) data. However, field observations, FGDs, and Camp Focal Point (CFP) feedback indicate a perceived increase in GBV incidents, particularly in relation to intimate partners and threats linked to growing insecurity within the camps. Females account for 98% of reported cases, with 82% involving married women and 0.9% involving persons with disabilities. There has been a reported increase in organized group's activities and organized crime targeting women especially those with relatives abroad who face heightened protection risks. This includes reports of sexual harassment, abduction threats, extortion, and intimidation. These dynamics highlight a divergence between reported GBV data and field realities, likely due to underreporting and survivors not accessing available services. Community leaders conducting case mitigation at the camp level without following referral pathways, further compounding survivors' vulnerabilities.



Physical violence remained the most reported form of GBV in Q4 2025, accounting for **50% of all cases**, despite a 3% decrease compared to Q3. This marginal decline does not reflect reduced risk, as incidents remained widespread within households and intimate relationships, with women and girls experiencing slapping, beating, kicking, and assaults using household objects. While the majority of cases occurred in domestic settings, approximately 6% of reported violence involved organized groups, reflecting a concerning overlap between household violence and broader insecurity. Persistent drivers—including economic stress, reduced food rations, unemployment, and harmful coping mechanisms such as gambling and substance use—continued to exacerbate household tensions, with disputes over scarce resources frequently triggering violence when women questioned or resisted male authority. Community awareness efforts by CiCs and Majhis contributed to a modest decline in gambling-related reports; however, underlying structural stressors continue to sustain high levels of physical violence.

Emotional and psychological violence became more visible in Q4 2025, increasing by 5% compared to the previous quarter, reflecting intensified fear, intimidation, and control across households and communities. Survivors reported verbal threats, humiliation, blackmail, and death threats to enforce compliance, particularly in contexts of extramarital relationships and financial dependency. Unlike earlier quarters where such abuse was often normalized, overt and

sustained psychological harm, including threats of abandonment, remarriage, or withdrawal of food and financial support, increasing distress and reporting. Cyber harassment through calls, messages, photos, and videos emerged as a key tactic to silence women, while around 6% of cases involved intimidation by organized groups demanding money or loyalty, often alongside threats of sexual or physical violence.

Denial of resources remained steady at approximately 15% of reported cases, reflecting persistent structural and domestic deprivation increasingly linked to external economic pressures. Focus group discussions with women indicated that resource denial is frequently used as a coercive tool, with many reporting that husbands divert family assets toward online gambling and drug use. The trend of selling or withholding food rations by male family members continued, leaving women and children without basic sustenance amid broader camp-wide ration reductions. Survivors also reported the denial of maintenance, as men abandon financial responsibilities toward first wives to remarry or engage in extramarital affairs. With limited livelihood opportunities, the inability to access independent resources traps many survivors in cycles of abuse, leaving them dependent on perpetrators who control every aspect of their physical and economic survival.

During the reporting period, **sexual violence**, including rape (9%) and sexual assault (6%), remained consistent with Q3, suggesting continued and, in some contexts, escalating risk despite stable reporting. As per focus group discussions with community women, sexual violence continued to occur predominantly within intimate relationships, with marital rape emerging as a recurrent yet highly under-disclosed form, often normalized within marriage and reported only when associated with physical injury, severe distress, or repeated abuse. Beyond the household, GBV camp focal points indicated that sexual violence also occurred in community settings, with heightened exposure during night-time movement, in poorly lit areas, and in locations with weak security oversight. The stable reporting trend reflects entrenched barriers rather than reduced incidence, including stigma, fear of retaliation, dependency on perpetrators, and procedural and time-related barriers to accessing justice and protection, particularly in cases involving intimate partners or influential individuals.

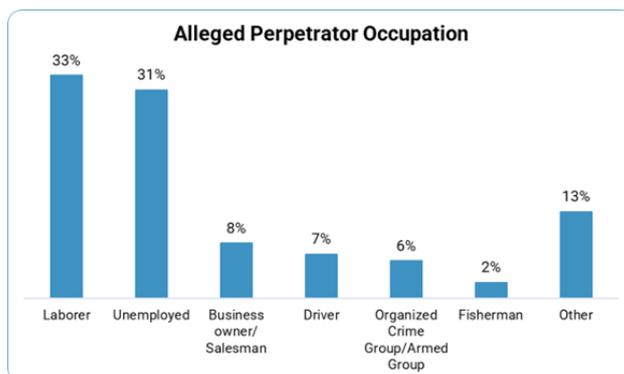
Similarly, **forced marriage** accounted for 0.2% of reported GBV cases in Q4 2025; however, focused group discussions suggest that the risk persists and may be underreported. Forced marriage is often driven by economic pressures, protection concerns, and cross-border dynamics, including pressure on families to marry adolescent girls to men residing abroad—particularly in Malaysia—in exchange for financial support. Fear of retaliation, social stigma, and the normalization of early or arranged marriages continue to limit disclosure. In several instances, forced marriage intersected with emotional coercion by family members and broader patterns of economic exploitation.

During the reporting period, 59% of survivors declined legal services particularly rape cases survivors do not want to receive legal assistance due to fear negative consequences and reprisal, as the perpetrators are allegedly members of the organized group. Same as in the previous quarter there is heightened community interference in GBV cases, including the use of mediation, intimidation by influential local actors, and repeated breaches of confidentiality during dispute resolution processes. Collectively, these factors have heightened fears of retaliation among survivors, discouraging reporting and reinforcing a culture of silence and impunity.

The large majority 94% of survivors were able to access lifesaving Clinical Management Rape (CMR) services for all rape incidents reported within 72 hours. There is also a gap in the law-enforcement due to ongoing security risk and staff turnover due to funding constraints. At the same time, gaps in law-enforcement and ongoing security risks, especially during night-time movement near latrine and water has expose women and girls in sexual violence and threats.

In this reporting period, the perpetrator and survivor relationship profiles decreased by 4% compared with previous quarters; 69% of incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners, 9% by neighbours or family friends, and 9% by other family members. Notably, 88% of all reported incidents occurred within the survivor’s residence. This indicates that the home remains the primary setting where the majority of reported GBV incidents take place within 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 the reporting period, incidents affecting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence showed a slight decrease compared to the previous quarter with 22 reported incidents affecting 382 individuals. However, there was a marked increase in disputes related to shelter and land use, particularly in areas along camp boundaries where interactions between refugees and host community members are more frequent and land demarcation and ownership is unclear. The number of individuals involved in such incidents nearly doubled from the previous quarter. Relations between refugees and the host community further deteriorated due to coercive practices, intimidation, and the use of violence by some members of the host community or groups exerting informal control over the use of land and shared services.

Financial disputes and exploitative labor practices were also a main driver of social cohesion incidents this quarter. In Camp 24, for example, a Rohingya man was physically assaulted by a host community employer and his son after refusing to continue seasonal work due to unpaid wages from the previous year. In Camp 25, a refugee man—reportedly involved in gambling—was brutally beaten with an electric wire by two host community members identified as gambling agents, forcing him to flee the camp out of fear. Another refugee man was reportedly assaulted by the same perpetrators over gambling-related debts.

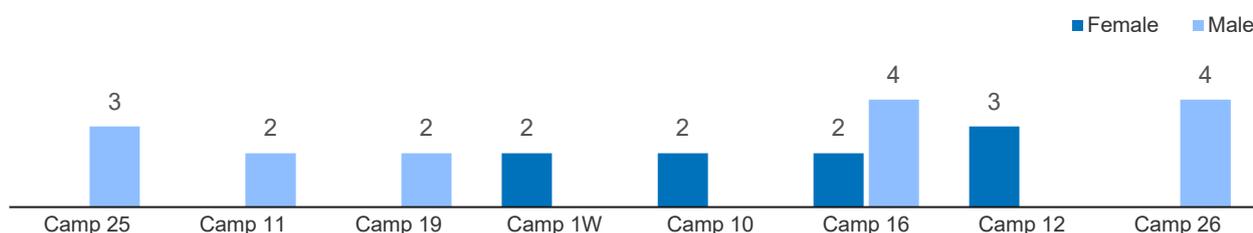
Incidents captured under the category “other” included ongoing tensions and safety concerns between refugees and host community members. A verbal dispute incident was reported in Camp 22 between two Rohingya laborers and two Bangladeshi mini tom-tom drivers over the transport of ration items. More serious altercations involved targeted intimidation and violence like an incident reported in Camp 9 where a Rohingya man was beaten and extorted for 2,000 BDT by host community members who warned him against using a local pathway. A quarrel was also reported in camp 24 after a host community member intervened when allegedly an intoxicated Rohingya father was beating his child. Additional cases included the beating of a person with an intellectual disability by a landowner in Camp 25 and the assault of a 28-year-old refugee woman and her nephew in Kochubunia near KTP Bazar, following a conflict involving the newly arrived male refugee and a host community member.

Refugee households reported ongoing coercive practices by landowners, including demands for payments under threat of eviction. In Camp 16, for instance, approximately 150 people were threatened with eviction by the landowner if they failed to provide monthly contributions of oil, rice, and other food items. Due to fear of retaliation, community members did not report the issue to the authorities. Additional tensions related to shelter and land use were reported in Camp 22, where a dispute arose between two families over adjacent space: one family was using the area for gardening, and the other claimed it as part of their allocated plot. Furthermore, a serious Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) dispute occurred in a camp where ten Rohingya shopkeepers were confronted by a host community landowner who forcibly closed their shops and demanded a significantly increased advance payment of 300,000 BDT and a monthly rent of 10,000 BDT. The shopkeepers noted that they had already paid 250,000 BDT advance and a monthly rent of 3,000 BDT and were unable to meet the demands. Informal land-use and rental arrangements continued to disproportionately affect newly arrived refugees, women-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities⁶.

A total of 1,008 HLP cases were recorded across the camps, of which 630 cases (63%) involved women, indicating the continued persistence of challenges related to access to HLP rights among Rohingya refugees. Relocation and shelter-related cases dominated the caseload, with 208 and 199 cases respectively, reflecting sustained pressure on space, site planning, and shelter availability. Disputes over rental increases (153 cases) highlight ongoing tenure insecurity and exploitative practices affecting households. Challenges related to access to services, including pathways, latrines, and water points (116 cases) point to congestion, unplanned camp expansion, and overlapping use of limited space. Inheritance disputes within the host community (75 cases) further underscore the complexity of HLP issues and demonstrate that these challenges affect both refugees and host communities.

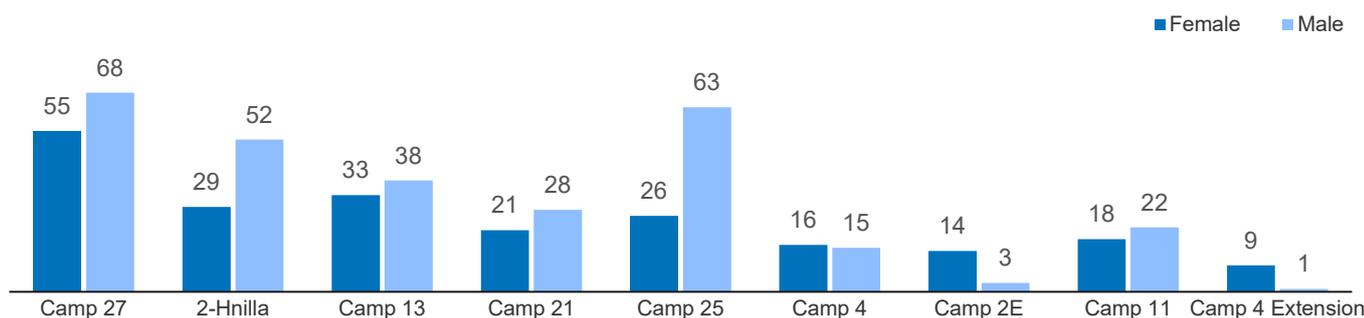
While HLP cases were registered across all camps, the following ten camps recorded the highest number of cases:

Top 5 refugee Camps with highest eviction cases

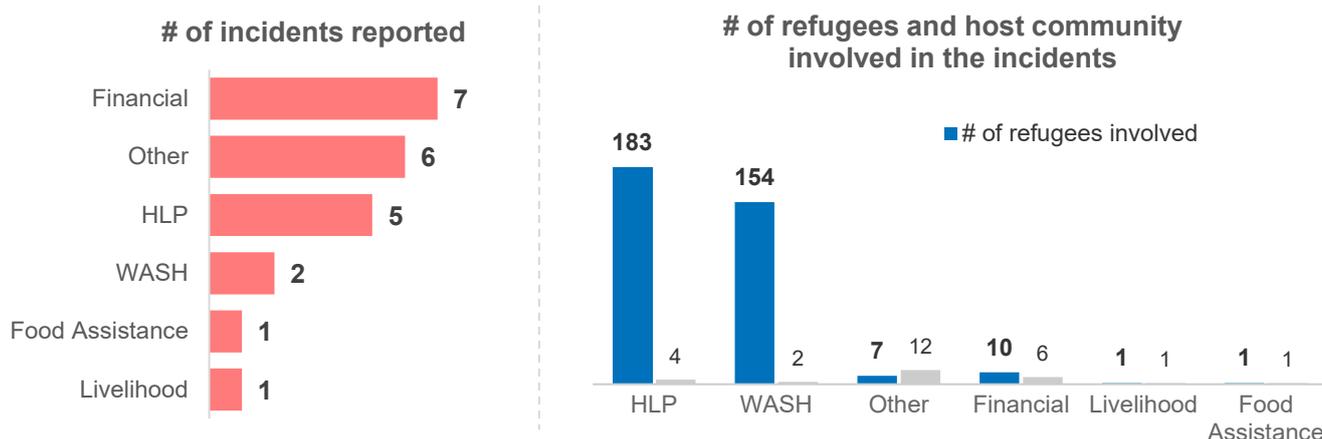


⁶ For detailed information on HLP issues impacting newly arrived refugees please read the [Report: HLP Situation of Newly Arrived Refugees in Cox's Bazar – January 2026](#)

Top 9 refugee camps with highest HLP cases



An incident related to food assistance was reported near the WFP outlet in Camp 9 involving a group from the host community known to operate as a syndicate controlling the purchase of ration items from Rohingya refugees. The conflict occurred when a Rohingya shopkeeper attempted to buy ration items from another Rohingya individual. The host community syndicate members forcefully stopped the shopkeeper and instructed that no Rohingya should buy ration items from other Rohingya, insisting instead that they must sell their rations to the syndicate, which later resells them at higher prices.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Between October to December, 7,850 refugees (57% women and girls) benefited from legal services. The services include 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, 5,235 refugees were provided with legal counselling, 159 were assisted with filing cases with police and courts, as well as obtaining the camp exit permits from CiCs. During the reporting period, 50 refugees were released from detention, and 51 refugees were represented in legal proceedings in court. Additionally, 225 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 1,162 cases (involving 2,400 refugees), 86% 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. A total of 8,662 refugees participated in legal awareness sessions as needs for information on legal access, including legal procedures and available legal services in the camp, persisted during the reporting period.

Informal justice system such as community led mediation process continued. These were often led by Majhis who often demand bribes as payments for conducting the mediation. This unregulated justice mechanism often provides rapid closure to disputes but lacks procedural safeguards and survivor-centred approaches.

Victims of abduction and kidnapping often resolved cases by paying ransom rather than seeking assistance from legal actors or camp authorities. This was primarily due to the lengthy nature of legal procedures and the fear that perpetrators

might inflict further harm on the victims as reprisal. In several instances, victims and witnesses who attempted to report these cases faced intimidation and threats of retaliation.

In Teknaf, the perceived connections between certain host community members and law enforcement actors have discouraged refugees from reporting incidents or pursuing formal justice processes—particularly when alleged perpetrators belonged to the host community. Additionally, instances where host community individuals positioned themselves as intermediaries in dispute resolution, demanding “fees” or bribes, have further obstructed refugees’ access to formal justice mechanisms.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

The number of incidents reported in accessing services increased only by 1% and it affected a total of 1,461 individuals. Denial or unequal access to services was most frequently reported within the Shelter and Camp Coordination Camp Management (SCCCM), Health and Wash Sectors during this quarter.

Needs related to SCCC were identified across multiple camps, with a total of 45 incidents reported. Many cases involved families unable to repair severely damaged walls, roofs, or bamboo structures, largely due to recurring weather-related damage and the fragile materials allowed for the construction of these shelters. Some reported incidents were linked to concerns over landslide risks and leakage of water. In some cases, there were delays due to unavailable material or waiting periods for reparation and maintenance. There were a few incidents of damaged drainage systems that cause minor injuries and one allegation of an incident where some volunteers were reportedly prioritizing their relatives and family members’ repairs, while neglecting the repair of sections of a road that is in bad condition.

During this quarter, refugees reported 14 incidents related to difficulties accessing health services. In some camps, unavailability of specialized essential medicines at the health facility affected approximately 25 individuals that couldn’t receive treatment. A recently arrived female refugee reported suffering from a kidney and heart condition and having challenges to obtain the health services she needs. Some individuals suffering from chronic or serious conditions, including mental health issues, were unable to receive appropriate treatment because services were unavailable, discontinued, or not provided in camp health centers. Some incidents referred to refugees with severe medical conditions (including injuries) who were unable to obtain speedy referrals to specialized care.

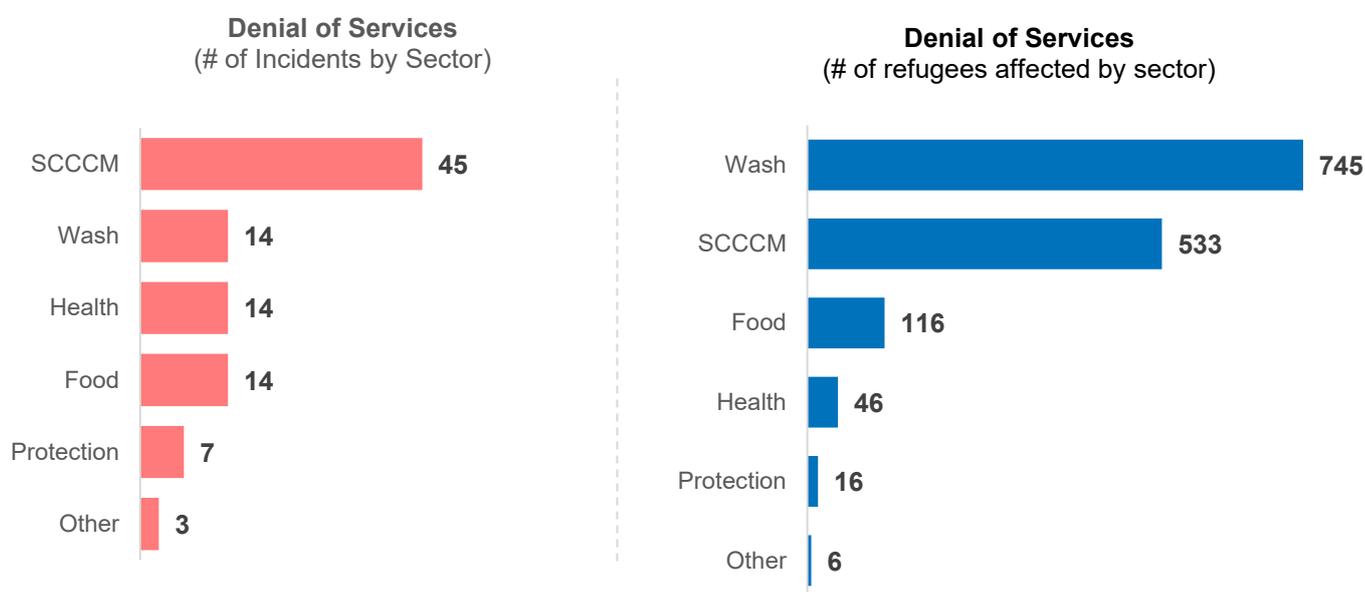
Some WASH-related concerns were raised across several camps linked to access to clean water, maintenance of toilets and water facilities and denial of use of WASH points by host communities and organized groups. Incidents of disputes over access to water points and shared infrastructure were also reported this quarter. In Camp 16, a host community member locked a latrine and began demanding rent for its use. In a separate incident, approximately 150 people were prevented from collecting water after a host community member impeded access to a water tank, claiming ownership because it was located on his land and warning residents not to report the matter to the authorities. In another camp, an ARSA member reportedly constructed a private wall around a community toilet blocking access to 4 families. Some refugees also reported shortages of bathing facilities and unavailability of new toilets due to lack of budget for additional infrastructure and maintenance. Drainage maintenance issues were reported in Camp 25, where lack of cleaning has led to strong odors, unsanitary conditions, and related health risks affecting approximately 150 individuals. Many blocks reported insufficient water points forcing families to queue for long periods, miss prayer times, or travel to other blocks to get water where some have faced verbal abuse. In Camp 25, and linked to HLP concerns, the WASH service provider volunteer has stopped delivering water because a host-community landowner threatened him during a dispute. The landowner warned that he would physically assault the volunteer if he returned to provide water, preventing the continuation of the service.

There were 14 reported incidents to access food due to challenges in registration data or changes in their place of residence. Some individuals moving from Bhasan Char to Camp 1W have been unable to update their data for over a year resulting in an inability to collect rations, access LPG, or receive essential non-food items. Families without updated data cards -including those with newborns not registered at birth- struggled to obtain food. There were reported cases of older persons eligible for fresh-food assistance that were repeatedly denied support because they were not listed as heads of household. In Camp 1W, a female refugee with health conditions had previously been receiving a fresh-food entitlement. Her brother’s three children were added to her data card after both parents passed away. Now that one of the boys and the girl have turned 18, the woman is no longer receiving the fresh food items. She is requesting that the data card be separated so that her brother’s adult children have their own records, allowing her to regain access to the

assistance she needs. Complaints were raised by refugees in Camp 21 regarding oil distributions, where bottles were provided without lids, making transport difficult for recipients.

Incidents of protection were related to the issuance of new registration cards, registration related to newborns, separation of family members, relocations from other camps or block. In Camp 1E, for example, a mother has been unable to receive suji or food for her nine-month-old baby because the child has not yet been added to her data card. Another woman, who fled to India in 2024 and returned with her new husband was denied marriage registration by the CiC as they are considered new arrivals. Another case involved incorrect registration following an unregistered marriage, leaving a newborn under the wrong household in Camp 1W. One woman returned from Bhasan Char without permission after her husband remarried, leaving her without a data card or access to services.

Challenges reported on access to “other” services involved incidents were individuals reported losing their smart cards or having them destroyed in fires and facing challenges getting them replaced.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Authorities must urgently ensure that no meetings, campaigns, or other activities are used to pressure refugees into returning to Myanmar; and reaffirm that any return can only occur on a voluntary, safe and dignified basis, grounded in refugees’ free and informed choice and free from coercion or undue influence.
- Law Enforcement Agencies have a duty to deter recruitment by any armed or criminal actor, as such activities directly undermine the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps.
- Recruitment—or threats of recruitment—for combat, including of children, must be strictly prohibited. This requires increased monitoring of suspected locations, proactive verification of reported recruitment meetings, and decisive action to protect refugees from intimidation and harm.
- Ensure that community-led structures are freely chosen by refugees and have no linkages to organized groups or groups promoting movements of refugees to engage in the armed conflict in Myanmar or advocating for return in circumstances that are not safe, dignified, and conducive, including through pressure, misinformation, or other forms of undue influence. Representation and leadership of refugees should be credible, inclusive, participatory and accountable.



- Strengthen measures to ensure respect for the rule of law including through the presence of law enforcement agencies inside the camps by means of protection-oriented systems 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.
- Support and empower independent, genuinely representative 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. This should also include safeguards to protect the independence and representative legitimacy of community leadership, given the heightened risk of external influence and co-option of civil society actors. 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.
- Advocate for the full registration of new arrivals as well as their full access to individual documentation and all services, especially shelter.
- 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; and prevent any interference, intimidation, or misinformation that discourages access to WGSS or seeks to influence, suppress, or manipulate GBV reporting and referrals.
- 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.
- Establish dedicated and accessible transportation support (e.g., tom-tom assistance or stretchers) for persons with disabilities and elderly people who require hospital referrals.

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