



33 REFUGEE CAMPS COX'S
BAZAR · BHASAN CHAR 21
ACTIVE PARTNERS

Child Protection Sub-Sector

QUARTERLY BULLETIN · APRIL – JUNE 2026



COX'S BAZAR · Q2 2026

THE QUARTER AT A GLANCE

During Q2, the Child Protection Sub-Sector advanced systems strengthening and accountability, across the Rohingya response. The Sub-Sector also strengthened evidence-based coordination and advocacy through child protection situation monitoring, child rights monitoring, and joint protection monitoring. Donor engagement continued through briefing notes for ECHO, FCDO, and World Bank missions, highlighting interventions in case management, psychosocial support, life skills, community awareness, and GBV prevention delivered through multipurpose centres and community-based mechanisms. The quarter was marked by increasing funding constraints and heightened pre-monsoon risks. By the end of Q2 2026, the CP Sub-Sector faced a **USD 10.9 million gap** against a USD 22.5 million requirement, leaving 49% of needs unfunded.

Executive Summary

During Q2, the Child Protection Sub-Sector advanced systems strengthening and accountability, across the Rohingya response. The Sub-Sector also strengthened evidence-based coordination and advocacy through child protection situation monitoring, child rights monitoring, and joint protection monitoring. Donor engagement continued through briefing notes for ECHO, FCDO, and World Bank missions, highlighting interventions in case management, psychosocial support, life skills, community awareness, and GBV prevention delivered through multipurpose centres and community-based mechanisms.

The CPSS completed the mid-year progress review of JRP child protection activities and supported priority capacity-building initiatives, including anti-trafficking tool refresher and validation sessions for CP and GBV caseworkers, HLP training for CP focal points, and implementation of the PSEA prevention strategy. At field level, partners worked to maintain service continuity despite funding and operational constraints. Damage to multipurpose centres caused by monsoon-related flooding and mudslides was assessed, and repair needs were identified.

Planning also advanced for finalizing the CBCPC module and developing a protection prevention toolkit. These efforts reflect the Sub-Sector's continued focus on sustaining life-saving child protection services while strengthening community-based prevention, accountable information management, and evidence-driven advocacy. Two structural coordination processes carried over from Q1 into Q2: establishment of a Joint GBV/CP Strategic Advisory Group and finalization of a Joint CP/GBV Programming Guidance Note on overlapping risks, including child marriage.

Throughout the April-June 2026 reporting period, the CPSS sustained coordinated case management, psychosocial support, and community-based protection programming across the 33 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. The quarter was marked by increasing funding constraints and heightened pre-monsoon risks. Funding reductions across sectors continued to intensify protection risks for children.

JRP 2026 – PROGRESS

The JRP 2026, co-presented by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR, remains the principal strategic and funding framework for the Rohingya response, appealing for USD 710.5 million to reach 1.6 million people through 98 partners. The CP Subsector operates through the JRP's protection-focused strategic objectives, tracking performance against agreed targets and reporting through this bulletin.

USD 22.5M FUNDING REQUIR	21 ACTIVE PARTNERS	1,430,279 PEOPLE IN NEED	862,472 PEOPLE TARGETED	673,034 ROHINGYA REFUGEES TARGETED	189,438 HOST COMMUNITY TARGETED
USD 10.9M FUNDING GAP (Q2)	350 Facilities	5,151 NEW CASES (Q2)	10,564 ACTIVE CASES	141,684 CHILDREN REACHED · PSS	1,466 CBCPCS FUNCTIONAL

MONSOON RESPONSE

Intense pre-monsoon and early monsoon rainfall in early July triggered landslides and flooding across Cox's Bazar, killing at least 17 people in and around the camps, most of them children, and displacing more than 13,000 people. Although this emergency falls just outside the April-June reporting period, its child protection implications are immediate and severe.

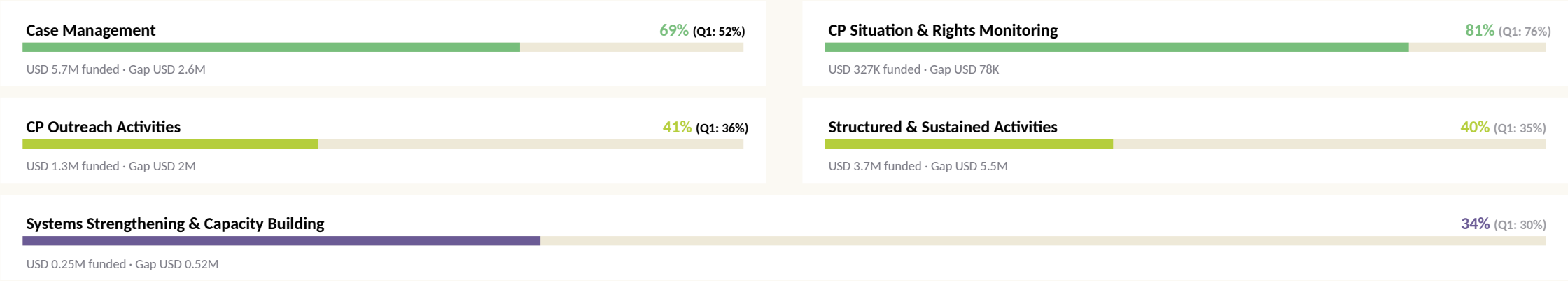
17 DEATHS
13K+ DISPLACED

Financial Requirements & Funding Status

The table below carries forward the Q1 2026 financial position.

Category	Required	Gap (end-Q1)	Gap (end-Q2)
Overall CP Requirements	USD 22.5M	USD 13.3M	10.9 M
Priority 1	USD 10.1M	USD 4.6M	2.97 M
Priority 1 + 2 (Combined)	USD 14.9M	USD 7.9M	6 M
Priority 3	USD 4.6M	USD 3.2M	3.1 M
Resilience and Solutions	USD 2.9M	USD 1.8M	1.7 M

Funding Coverage by Programme Area



! IMPLICATIONS ON FUNDING GAPS ON THE RESPONSE

By end-June 2026, child protection needs continued to outpace available resources, with funding gaps and wider service reductions increasing children's exposure to neglect, violence, exploitation, child labor, child marriage, trafficking, recruitment, family separation and psychosocial distress. The response will prioritise the most at-risk children and families through case management, MHPSS, family strengthening, prevention, community-based monitoring and safe referral pathways.

Coordination Updates

Signing of the CP Case management Data and Information Sharing Protocol

A key milestone was progress towards finalizing and signing the revised Child Protection Case Management Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocol. Together with CPIMS+, the protocol reinforces shared standards for safe, ethical, and accountable information management, helping ensure that children's case information is protected, shared only when necessary, and used to support timely, coordinated care.



CCPSS Mid-Year Review

CPSS conducted its mid-year review on 28 June 2026. During the review workshop, the progress and reach against each indicator and activity group were reviewed and discussed. Partners were consulted on how best to move forward to ensure quality programming while aligning activities and targets with the actual reach and evolving needs. Based on the findings and recommendations from the workshop, CPSS has revised the target population, reviewed the reporting template, and arranged an orientation for Information Management colleagues to ensure a common understanding of the revised reporting requirements, definition of each indicator, means of verification processes.

JRP 2026 Update Presentation

A high-level presentation of the updated 2026 Joint Response Plan was delivered in Dhaka on 20 May 2026, reaffirming the Plan's five strategic objectives including strengthened protection of Rohingya women, men, girls and boys, and strengthened disaster risk management. The CP Subsector contributed sector-specific inputs on prioritization and monitoring indicators.

Capacity Building Initiatives

A five-day Case Management Training, organized by Save the Children, is scheduled from 14th June for 30 Child Protection Focal Points. The training will focus on their roles and responsibilities in case identification, referral, family reunification, and alternative care arrangements. IRC arranged a one-day orientation on 9 June covering CRMM and GBV to promote effective coordination among service providers and improve reporting and referral mechanisms, ensuring timely, safe, and appropriate support for affected children and individuals, with coordination support and technical guidance from CPSS.

Pre-monsoon Preparedness & New Arrivals

CPSS partners engaged in inter-sector pre-monsoon contingency planning during the quarter, coordinating with the Site Management/CCCM sector's landslide and flood risk mapping and updating camp-level focal point and referral information ahead of the seasonal peak.

New arrivals from Myanmar: Continued conflict between Myanmar's military and the Arakan Army in Rakhine State sustained a steady flow of new arrivals into the camps during the quarter, adding to an estimated 150,000+ Rohingya who crossed into Bangladesh between January 2024 and mid-2025. CPSS partners continued to support the screening, registration and referral of unaccompanied and separated children among new arrivals.

JOINT SAG FORMATION

The merger of the CPSS SAG and GBV Sub-Sector SAG into a single Joint SAG represents a significant structural transformation in the coordination architecture. The establishment of the Joint SAG aims to strengthen strategic leadership, promote integrated coordination, and enhance collaboration across child protection and gender-based violence interventions. The first Joint SAG meeting was held on 13 July 2026, during which members reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) and agreed on key working modalities. The Joint SAG will bring together representatives from relevant stakeholders to provide strategic guidance, support coordinated decision-making, and identify shared priorities to strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of CPSS and GBV programming. Initial priorities include finalizing the Joint SAG's operational modalities, strengthening collaboration among members, and advancing a coordinated approach to addressing key Child Protection and GBV concerns.

Challenges & Constraints

Funding shortfall - The CP Subsector's funding gap remained severe through Q2, compounded by broader 2026 cuts across food assistance, education and cooking-fuel programming that increase downstream protection risk even as CP's own resourcing shrinks.

Monsoon-related service disruption - The early-July landslides and flooding (Section 6) disrupted MPC, CFS and case management continuity in affected camps and diverted partner capacity toward emergency response, with recovery needs likely to extend into Q3.

New-arrival absorption capacity - Continued conflict in Rakhine State sustained new arrivals into the camps during the quarter, adding pressure to screening, registration and referral capacity for unaccompanied and separated children.

Community-based protection funding gap - The shift toward supporting Rohingya-led community-based protection mechanisms requires sustained investment in capacity building and monitoring that current funding does not fully cover.

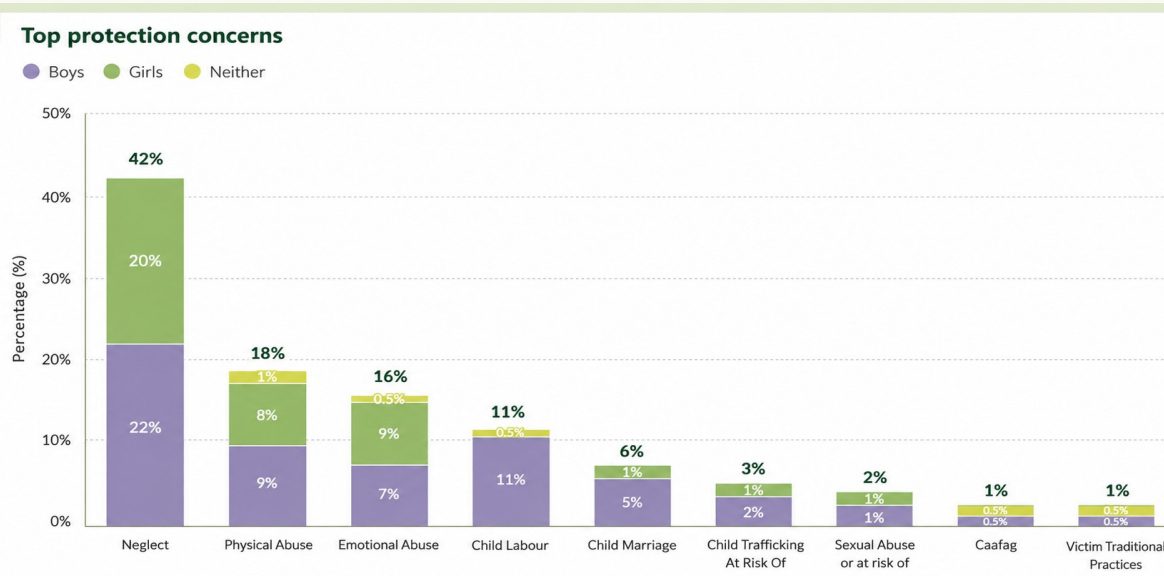
Case Management

Child Protection case management is a structured process to identify, assess, plan for, and follow up with children facing protection risks, including unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of abuse or exploitation, and children with psychosocial needs. In the Rohingya response, 14 Child Protection agencies are providing case management services, coordinated through the Case Management Technical Working Group (CMTWG). The Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) strengthens this service through secure information management, enabling coordinated case management, and evidence-based decision-making to ensure children receive timely and appropriate support.



Source: CPIMS+ extract, exported 4 August 2026 for the Q2 reporting period.

Case Type Distribution



The chart above reproduces the Q2 2026 case-type distribution.

Overall, the data points to a caseload shaped by overlapping risks, with neglect, violence, psychosocial distress and economic pressure requiring sustained investment in case management, MHPSS, family strengthening, prevention and safe referral pathways.

High-risk concentration — While Neglect remains the highest-volume concern, more severe protection issues make up a disproportionate share of high-risk classifications: 94% of CAAFAG cases, 91% of Sexual Abuse At Risk Of cases, 70% of Child Trafficking At Risk Of cases, and 100% of Child in Conflict with Law cases are categorized as high-risk. Girls and boys are affected in near-equal measure (48% and 52% respectively), with children aged 7–14 years representing the largest affected age group, and 11.8% of cases involving a child with a disability.

CP CASE TRENDS

During Q2 2026 (April–June), new case registrations rose steadily each month, from 1,492 in April to 1,719 in May and 1,940 in June - an increase of roughly 30% over the quarter, bringing total registrations to 5,151. This rising caseload reflects a diverse and often overlapping set of child protection concerns, with 37.3% of cases involving multiple concurrent concerns.

Neglect was the most frequently reported child protection concern, representing 42% of cases and reinforcing the need for stronger family support, caregiver engagement, and prevention programming. Psychological distress and physical abuse each accounted for 18% of cases, while emotional abuse represented around 16%, highlighting the continued impact of violence, caregiver stress and psychosocial strain on children. Child labour accounted for 11.7% of cases and child marriage for 6.4%, reflecting the influence of economic hardship and harmful coping mechanisms.

Structured & Sustained Activities, including Psychosocial Support

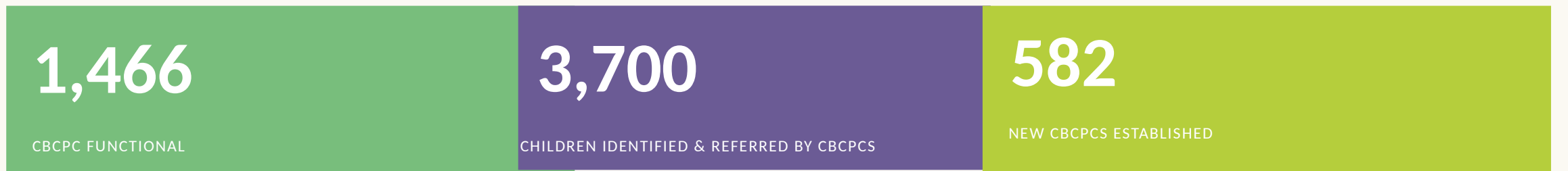
Across 148 MPC's / 80 CFS's and 79 adolescent/gender specific hubs in Cox's Bazar including host community, 21 MPCs in Bhasan Char, **141,684 children** (girls 69,352; boys: 72,332) and **77,403 adults** accessed services in Q2 out of which 3,468 were persons with disability.

Good practices

- Embedding cyclone/monsoon preparedness messaging given Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char's high exposure to seasonal disasters affecting camp populations.
- Pre-positioning contingency staffing/volunteer rosters ahead of monsoon season to maintain MPC/CFS operations during peak-risk months.
- Linking PSS/MPC engagement to longer-term skill development (livelihoods-oriented sessions for older adolescents) given the protracted nature of the crisis, rather than only short-term recreational framing.
- Inclusive adaptations (accessible facilities, trained staff) to sustain engagement of children with disabilities.
- Deployment of trained volunteers/facilitators for quality facilitation and child safeguarding, with regular refresher training.
- Ongoing supervision and mentoring of facilitators to maintain response quality across a large network (148 MPCs, 80 CFS, 79 hubs).
- Shared referral pathways between MPC/CFS staff and case management teams so protection concerns identified during PSS activities are escalated promptly.
- Shift-based scheduling to maximize facility use and accommodate more children.
- Dedicated time slots for adolescent boys and girls, ensuring safety, privacy and age-appropriate engagement.

Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP)

Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) represent an important part of the protective capacity of the Rohingya community itself, serving as the early-warning and referral backbone of the Subsector's response.



Good practice in community-based protection

- Community-led identification and referral, with CBCPC members acting as the first point of contact for at-risk children, enabling earlier detection of protection concerns before they escalate to high-risk status.
- Regular refresher training for CBCPC volunteers on identification indicators, referral pathways, and confidentiality/safeguarding principles, keeping their skills aligned with evolving case trends (e.g., trafficking, CAAFAG risks).
- Balanced volunteer composition (age, gender, disability representation) within CBCPCs to ensure the committee reflects and can reach the full diversity of the community, including adolescent girls and children with disabilities.
- Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency early warning into CBCPC roles, positioning committees as dual-purpose structures for both routine protection monitoring and rapid response during monsoon/cyclone emergencies.

CP Situation & Rights Monitoring

The Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) mechanism and the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) provide the Subsector's core qualitative and quantitative evidence base. Findings point to multiple, overlapping protection risks driven by poverty, food insecurity, overcrowding, harmful social norms, limited caregiving capacity and insecurity. The analysis below reflects the most recent data monitoring and highlights key trends requiring sustained prevention, case management, MHPSS and referral support.

Serious child rights violations remained acute

712 incidents reported through the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism, affecting 829 children, including 212 girls, 568 boys and 49 children recorded as other or unknown. Nearly half of reported incidents were verified, while 37% were confirmed to a reasonable level. Abduction or kidnapping remained the highest reported violation, followed by recruitment or use of children and injuries by armed groups. Reduced community willingness to discuss armed group activity suggests increased fear and under-reporting rather than a reduction in risk.

Child labour remained widespread and increased

Two in three community members reported child labour in their surroundings, up from 61% earlier in the year, while case records identified 582 formal child labour cases, 92% involving boys. Boys were most often engaged in market work, load carrying and autorickshaw driving, while girls were mainly reported in unpaid domestic work and sewing. Poverty remained the primary driver, cited in roughly one third of responses for both boys and girls, with school dropout, physical harm and exploitation identified as the main consequences.

Sexual violence remained under-reported

Sexual violence against children remained under-reported, with available evidence indicating a worsening trend. Reports of children at risk of, or affected by, sexual violence increased, while cases described as occurring "often" rose from 15% to 24%. Most reported child survivors were harmed by someone known to them, including family members and relatives (29%) and armed group members (22%). Reports involving community leaders also increased from 9% to 16%, raising concern about trust, safety and accountability within referral pathways.

Caregiver mental health deteriorated

Nearly six in ten caregivers reported that their own mental health challenges affected their ability to care for children, marking the largest deterioration this quarter. Families increasingly identify children's mental health as the main consequence of neglect, indicating a deepening psychosocial impact even where school attendance remains stable.

Overall — situation monitoring points to rising and increasingly interconnected protection risks amid constrained response capacity. Case volumes increased by 38% during the quarter, while caregiver distress, armed group-related risks, child marriage, child labour and violence by trusted individuals continued to intensify. Sustained investment in frontline capacity, integrated MHPSS within casework, safe referral pathways and community-based prevention will be essential to prevent further deterioration in the next quarter.

Bhasan Char: CP Response Update

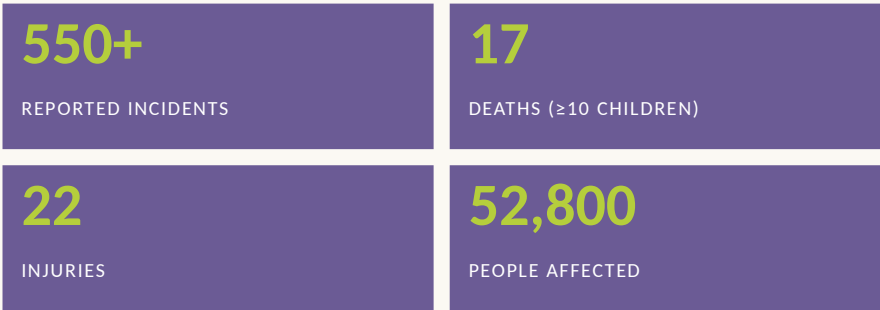
Bhasan Char hosts approximately **30,400 Rohingya refugees** across 120 cluster blocks, including an estimated 14,000 children. While generally safer than the mainland camps, the child risk profile is characterized by child marriage and physical abuse cases than in Cox's Bazar. According to families in BC, the biggest gaps are not in formal protection services, but in everyday events or social activities for children, safe spaces to play, vocational training, and life skills, the most requested and least available support.

The child protection response is delivered by a **BRAC, UNHCR and UNICEF** , operating through multipurpose centres and adolescent clubs. Geographic isolation, logistical challenges and administrative complexity continue to generate a two-tier response dynamic relative to Cox's Bazar, which the Subsector is actively working to address.

Indicator	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
CP Partners Active	BRAC, UNHCR, UNICEF	BRAC, UNHCR, UNICEF
Child Friendly Spaces / MPCs Operational	20 CFS / 14 MPCs	20 CFS / 14 MPCs / 2 Parks, 56 fenced ponds
Children Reached via CFS/PSS	2,184	3,229
CP Cases Registered	284	523
CBCPCs Active	28	55
Children and caregivers reached through structured and sustained activities	547	901

Pre-Monsoon Season and the July 2026 Monsoon Emergency

Bangladesh's 2026 monsoon opened with an unusually intense and prolonged rainfall event across the southeast in the first two weeks of July, striking Cox's Bazar's Rohingya camps built on steep, deforested, and densely populated hillsides — with severe force. Although the acute phase of this emergency falls just outside the April–June reporting period, it follows directly from the pre-monsoon vulnerabilities tracked by the Subsector through Q2 and carries urgent, ongoing child protection implications that this bulletin flags for immediate attention.



In total, the early July monsoon emergency resulted in more than 550 reported incidents across the Rohingya camps and surrounding areas, including landslides, flooding, windstorms, drowning and lightning strikes. The humanitarian and protection impact was significant, with children disproportionately affected: at least 10 children were confirmed among the fatalities, representing the majority of the 17 deaths reported overall, alongside 22 injuries, approximately 52,800 people affected and more than 13,000 people displaced. The emergency caused extensive damage to critical camp infrastructure, including nearly 4,900 shelters, water points, latrines, learning centres, retaining walls and access routes. It also weakened protective environments for children, as damage to facilities, temporary closures of safe spaces, disrupted access to structured psychosocial support and the relocation of affected families reduced children's access to safe, supportive services. These impacts contributed to increased psychosocial distress among children, caregivers, community volunteers and local responders supporting affected families, further heightening protection risks in already highly exposed areas.

Child Protection Implications

- Loss of life and injury among children, and the psychosocial impact on child survivors, siblings, family members and peers who witnessed landslide events, including at the Ukhiya madrasa.
- Displacement of over 13,000 people, increasing family separation risk and demand for family tracing and reunification (FTR) support and placed additional pressure on family tracing and reunification, case management and referral systems.
- Increased psychosocial distress:** Children, caregivers and frontline community volunteers experienced heightened distress linked to loss, displacement, service disruption and uncertainty, underscoring the need for strengthened psychological first aid, community-based MHPSS and follow-up support.
- Disruption to MPC, CFS and adolescent club operations in affected camps, with likely temporary loss of contact with children previously engaged in structured PSS activities.
- A recurring, foreseeable seasonal risk:** The recurrence of fatal landslides and flooding underscores the continuing and foreseeable nature of monsoon-related risks in the camps, highlighting the need for stronger pre-monsoon mitigation, preparedness and child-centred contingency planning.
- Reduced access to learning and safe movement:** Damage to learning centres and access routes further constrained children's access to education, safe mobility and routine services, increasing exposure to child labour, exploitation, neglect and other protection risks during the recovery period.

MONSOON RESPONSE

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) awareness activities reached **37,882 individuals**, including 83 persons with disabilities. Cumulatively, **5,757 children and 2,727 caregivers** have received Psychological First Aid (PFA) support, while **8,374 children and 2,595 caregivers** have received Psychosocial Support (PSS). A total of **20 children** have been reunified to date (9 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and 11 missing children), and **36 children** were supported with emergency kits.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS



TERRE DES HOMMES (Tdh) From Silence to Smiles: Kalam's Journey to Safety

Ten-year-old Kalam lives in Camp 15 with his father, three brothers, and stepmother. After losing his mother at age seven, he faced frequent beatings, verbal abuse, and emotional neglect at home — leaving him withdrawn, isolated, and disengaged from learning and play. In September 2025, Tdh identified Kalam through community outreach and enrolled him in case management. An individualized plan addressed both his protection and psychosocial needs, engaging his father and stepmother directly. His father attended Positive Parenting sessions on children's rights and positive discipline, while his pregnant stepmother received home-based sessions from the Case Worker. His father has since joined the CBCPC, staying engaged in community child protection efforts. Alongside this, Kalam began attending structured PSS activities at the Tdh Multi-Purpose Centre — football, storytelling, drawing, and role play — helping him express emotions, build life skills, and reconnect with peers.

Today, Kalam attends learning and recreational activities regularly, has made friends, and is thriving. His father shared: Kalam now encourages other struggling children to seek help from a Case Worker — turning his own experience into support for others. His story shows how timely case management, caregiver engagement, and child-friendly PSS can work together to restore a child's safety, confidence, and childhood.

To learn more about TDH response to the Rohingya in Bangladesh please visit: <https://tdh-bangladesh.org/stories/rohingya-response-in-bangladesh/>

WORLD VISION BANGLADESH

Growing Together: Child Participation in Tree Plantation, 2026



As part of its commitment to plant over one million trees this year, the JF-FS-CPIE Project (funded by the German Federal Foreign Office) used a tree plantation campaign in six refugee camps (1E, 1W, 8E, 13, 15, 16) and two host community unions (Ratnapalong, Palongkhali) as a platform for child protection and participation. Of 11,800 saplings distributed, a significant share were planted directly through Child Clubs, Adolescent Clubs, and CBCPCs, alongside caregiver, Majhi, and faith leader groups — positioning children as active participants rather than passive beneficiaries. The campaign was witnessed by CiCs, government officials, and the UNO of Ukhiya, giving children's involvement public recognition.

Children and adolescents were directly consulted to select preferred tree species — including Neem, Moringa, Mango, Papaya, Lemon, and Apple Kul — building genuine ownership rather than a pre-set activity. A structured monitoring mechanism, with monthly volunteer visits, keeps children connected to follow-up care and responsibility over time — extending child participation beyond PSS/MPC spaces into sustained, community-level engagement.



To learn more about World Vision response to the Rohingya in Bangladesh please visit: <https://www.wvi.org/emergency/rohingya-refugee-response>

SAVE THE CHILDREN
From Crisis to Care: Keeping Three Rohingya Siblings Safe



Child Protection Outcomes

- The maternal aunt was formally recognized as the children's caregiver.
- Food and LPG assistance were reinstated, reducing immediate hardship.
- The siblings now have a more stable care environment and continued access to child protection support.
- Efforts to trace the children's missing mother remain ongoing. While the family still faces uncertainty, coordinated humanitarian action has helped reduce immediate protection risks, restore essential support, and give the three siblings a stronger foundation for safety, stability, and recovery.

In the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, children without consistent parental care face heightened risks of neglect, exploitation, abuse, and exclusion from essential services. For three Rohingya siblings, these risks became urgent after conflict in Myanmar claimed their father's life and displacement separated them from the stability of family life.

A Family in Crisis

After arriving in Bangladesh, the children lived with their maternal aunt. Their mother, deeply affected by bereavement and displacement, developed severe mental health challenges and later went missing. With no parent present and no formally recognized caregiver registered, the siblings were left in a fragile care situation.

Their hardship deepened when food assistance and LPG support were suspended because the aunt was not officially recognized as their caregiver. The eldest girl also had to care for her younger siblings, limiting her access to learning, psychosocial support, and recreational activities.

Coordinated Case Management Response

The siblings were identified by a Child Protection Volunteer and referred to Save the Children's Child Protection Case Management team. Following a comprehensive assessment, case workers coordinated with the Camp-in-Charge, Child Protection Focal Points, and UNHCR Registration Team to formally register the children's maternal aunt as their caregiver. This coordination restored the family's access to essential assistance and strengthened the children's care arrangements. Save the Children continues to provide case management and psychosocial support, while helping the children reconnect with education, psychosocial support, and recreational activities. Their aunt has also received Positive Parenting guidance to support a safer and more nurturing home environment.

To learn more about Save the Children response to the Rohingya in Bangladesh please visit: <https://www.savethechildren.net/bangladesh/rohingya-response>

CONTACT US

For more information on CPSS coordination, or to submit data or highlights for the bulletin, please contact:

Lillian Kona
lkona@unicef.org
Child Protection Manager, UNICEF

Taslina Begum
tbegum@unicef.org
Programme Officer, UNICEF

Anas Ismail
anismai@unicef.org
CPSS IM, UNICEF