

JOINT PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT


495

Focus Group Discussion (persons reached)


442

Home Visits


298

Key Informant Interviews (persons reached)


54

Men


46%

Women


7%
 People with disabilities

	Female	Male
Children (0-17)	1%	1%
Adult (18-59)	42%	47%
Elderly (60+)	3%	7%

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. This report serves to inform protection programming and advocacy through the collection and analysis of protection incidents, risks, threats, and vulnerabilities.

Seven partners (DRC, HI, IOM, IRC, NRC, OXFAM and UNHCR) conduct protection monitoring as a core protection programme covering a total of 1,200,171* refugees living across 34 camps including the island of Bhasan Char.

This report also reflects the contributions of Child Protection and GBV Sub-Sectors as well as of the Anti-Trafficking Working Group and the Housing, Land and Property Working Group.

For further details on the scope, interpretation and limitations of the monitoring inputs used in this report, please see the [methodology note](#).

Executive summary: serious security incidents increased slightly by 3% compared to the previous quarter, remaining consistent with the same reporting period in 2025. Abductions and kidnappings continued to be the most reported incident type. Nine killings were recorded, an increase of one from the previous period, including three cases of femicide. On 5 May, Abdul Halim, leader of the Arakan Rohingya Organization (ARO), was shot and killed in camp 7. The following day, the brother of an Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) leader was killed in camp 8E, in what was reported as a possible retaliatory attack. ARSA, Rohingya Islami Mahaz, RSO, RCPR, and UCR conducted gatherings and meetings across at least 19 camps, aiming to mobilize refugees to engage in the conflict in Rakhine State and to discuss repatriation. The protection system continues to face rising needs against stretched response capacity. Child protection case volumes rose by 38% this quarter; without a proportional expansion of frontline capacity, response quality and timeliness will continue to deteriorate. GBV cases increased by 10% compared to the first quarter, with economic hardship, substance abuse, gambling, and financial extortion driving household stress and tension. This has contributed to sustained intimate partner violence, which accounted for 72% of all GBV cases received. The second quarter was marked by the emergence of Rohingya youth groups calling for stronger protection mechanisms for community members. Lack of formal shelter allocation for new arrivals has fuelled overcrowding, exploitative rentals, secondary displacement, and heightened GBV risks ahead of the monsoon season. Social cohesion incidents also increased, driven by land and resource disputes and their exploitation by armed and criminal actors. Notably, Chattogram's Cyber Tribunal admitted its first cybercrime case filed on behalf of a Rohingya refugee. Access barriers shifted this quarter from household-level constraints to larger-scale service reductions and suspensions affecting entire blocks, driven by prioritization decisions and funding constraints. Consistent with quarter 1, this report highlights trends underscoring the link between funding reductions, deteriorating camp conditions, and heightened protection risks. These include the continued prevalence of abductions and kidnappings for ransom; gambling; increasing rates of child marriage, child labour, and human trafficking; and high levels of GBV, including intimate partner violence. All reflecting the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Tensions both within the refugee population and with host communities remain driven by competition over limited resources and services, compounded by continued exploitation and abuse of refugees.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

470 serious security incidents¹, impacting 592 Rohingya refugees, were documented across the 34 refugee camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf (and on the island of Bhasan Char² during the second quarter of 2026. These included abduction/kidnapping (174), extortion (112), gunshots/suspected use of firearms (29), killing/murder/manslaughter (9), recruitment³ (24) and serious physical assault (122). Reported **protection incidents increased slightly** by 3% and the number of affected refugees decreased by 29% compared to the first quarter of 2026. The overall security environment remained comparable to the same period in 2025.

Armed groups continued to operate within the camps, with ongoing **recruitment and cross-border mobilization efforts** reported. A total of 26 community-level gatherings were identified across camps 1E, 1W, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, and 25. The gatherings were primarily organized by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), the Rohingya Committee for Peace and

¹ This report captures serious incidents limited to the following categories: abduction/kidnapping, extortion, killing/murder/manslaughter, serious physical assault, gunshot/suspected firearm use, and recruitment. Recruitment was added in 2024, when such incidents began to emerge, and has been monitored continuously since.

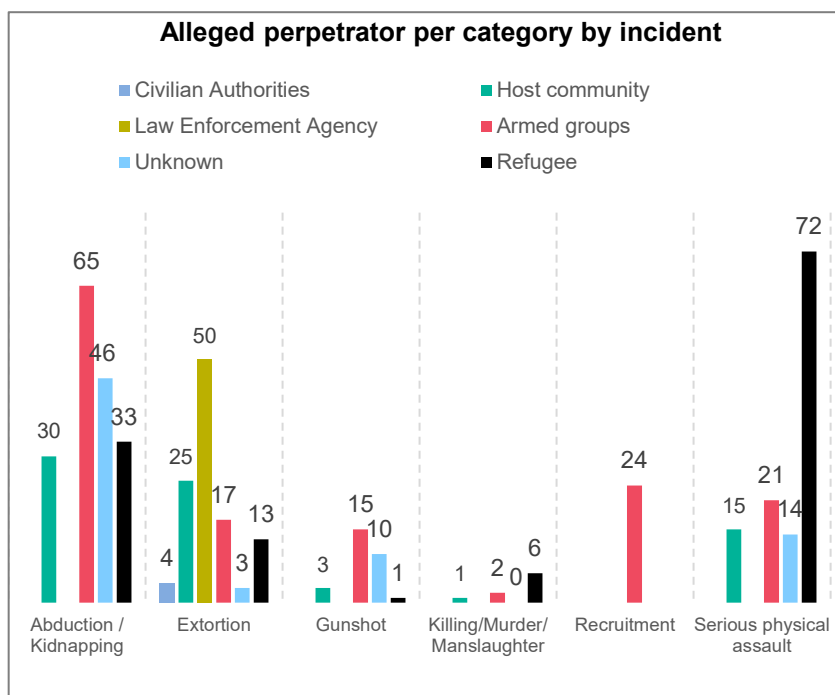
² As of 2026, the island of Bhasan Char has been included in the Protection Monitoring Report.

³ 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.

*Population in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Update as of 30 June 2026 - UNHCR Data portal link available [here](#)

Repatriation (RCPR)⁴ and the United Council of Rohingya (UCR)⁵, with participation ranging from small mobilization sessions to gatherings of approximately 1,500 to 1,800 individuals. On 25 April 2026, RCPR convened a community meeting in Camp 13, attended by approximately 1,500 to 1,800 individuals, including members, Majhis and other refugees. Discussions focused on the importance of repatriation, community harmony and unity. The group also denied responsibility for the death of Mohammed Ullah, a youth leader who reportedly drowned at sea after a failed boat journey to leave the country. RCPR disputed claims that he had left the camp due to threats from them, a claim made by the Rohingya “Gen-Z” movement.

A total of **18 recruitment-related meetings** were reported across camps 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, and 20, during the reporting period, 11 of which were organized by ARSA. Additional meetings were reportedly convened by ARSA, RSO, ARA, Rohingya Islami Mahaz, and RCPR. Recruitment approaches included meetings at mosques, small discussions at tea stalls and shelters, targeted outreach to educated individuals and teachers, public calls to join armed groups, and the use of social media images depicting firearms to attract potential members. Adolescents remained disproportionately affected: in camp 15, alleged ARSA members reportedly collected



The death of Mohammad Ullah, a young Rohingya man who drowned when a boat capsized in mid-April amid reported threats from the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation (RCPR), triggered a notable surge in civil society activism within the camps. Rohingya youth groups have since issued public statements calling for stronger protection mechanisms for community members who voice their concerns, while also expressing criticism of what they describe as non-representative leadership structures; most prominently the RCPR and UCR. In the aftermath of the statements, several individuals who participated in the movements have reportedly faced recurring threats and intimidation, including from the armed group Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) and RCPR, pushing several youths into hiding. Rohingya youth and emerging leaders in the camps reportedly continued to fear arrest, significantly constraining their ability to participate in community initiatives.

personal information from educated community members, particularly teachers, under the stated purpose of establishing a WhatsApp group for education and community initiatives.

An estimated **35 internal meetings** by armed groups were reported during the quarter, a 9% increase compared with the previous quarter. These were organized primarily by ARSA, UCR, RCPR, RSO, ARA, and Rohingya Islami Mahaz across camps 1E, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 20 Extension, and 24, as well as locations outside the camps. These meetings focused on recruitment, armed training, cross-border deployment, internal coordination, surveillance of rival groups, and strengthening organizational presence.

Recruitment-related incidents remained largely consistent with the previous quarter, with only one additional incident reported. Unverified reports indicated that, on 13 May, ARSA commanders allegedly selected ten individuals from camps 20 and 20E to travel to Rakhine State, with the recruits reportedly departing the camps following the meeting. In June, ARSA members were reported to have discussed broader plans to recruit young men across the camps for deployment to Rakhine State, while RSO reportedly sought to expand recruitment efforts in camp 9 to strengthen its presence and counter ARSA's influence. Reports from camp 19 suggested declining interest among some refugees in joining ARSA or travelling to Myanmar, prompting the group to reportedly assess the factors behind the reduced engagement and explore alternative recruitment approaches.

⁴ An organization active in the refugee camps as of early 2025 and led by Dil Mohammed, a figure known to have long-standing connections to the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and who has been allegedly implicated in supporting NASACA clearance operations in the 1990s and in forced recruitment and trafficking in persons in 2024.

⁵ 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 voted. Humanitarian actors have expressed concerns about the nature of the selection process.

During the reporting period, approximately **240 reported return movements** from Myanmar or the border areas were documented, involving individuals allegedly affiliated with the armed groups ARSA, ARA, and RSO. Returnees were reported in camps 8E, 8W, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 after being in Myanmar for extended periods. Some individuals had reportedly crossed the border voluntarily following mobilization, promises of financial incentives, or to receive armed training and fight against the Arakan Army (AA), while others, including adolescents, were allegedly forcibly recruited. Their reported periods of absence ranged from 17 days to approximately two years. Reasons for returning included illness or conflict-related injuries requiring medical treatment, temporary visits for Eid, family reunification, inability to perform assigned duties, exposure to fighting, abusive conditions, and forced recruitment. Five individuals from a camp, including four adolescents, returned within approximately one to two weeks after being assessed as physically unfit for fighting.

Most returnees were reportedly residing with their families after returning, while several injured individuals received treatment in camp facilities or Cox's Bazar. Some expressed unwillingness to return to Myanmar after experiencing coercion, abuse, or fighting; however, others reportedly intended to return following medical treatment or temporary leave. One group attempted to cross back but was prevented by border security. Reports also indicated repeated cross-border movement by some members and the continued involvement of certain returnees in discussions, including sharing combat experiences, promoting involvement in armed groups, and encouraging others to participate in fighting⁶.

Teknaf remained volatile during the reporting period, with rival organized criminal gangs (Alam, Hossain, Khaled, Nur Kamal, Saddam, and Saleh) competing for control of drug trafficking and carrying out abductions for ransom, among other criminal activities. While the number of reported **gunfire incidents and suspected firearm use** decreased by 9% compared to the previous quarter, 31% of all incidents were recorded in Teknaf. On 6 April, an exchange of gunfire was reported between the Khaled and Saddam groups, during which the leader of the Khaled group (member of the host community) was reportedly injured by gunfire.

Nine killing incidents were documented in camps 1E, 2W, 7, 8E, 18, 26, Nayapara Registered Camps and an incident that took place in Hugla Garden in Ghumdhum area (host community), reflecting a slight increase of one incident compared to the previous reporting period. The victims were 7 adults (4 male and 3 female refugees) and 2 boys.

On 5 May, Abdul Halim, leader of the Arakan Rohingya Organization (ARO), was shot and killed in camp 7. The following day, the brother of an Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) leader was killed in camp 8E in what was reported as a possible retaliatory attack. Both incidents remain under investigation, and APBn and the District Police have arrested 11 suspects in connection with the killings. Despite concerns of escalation, no further retaliatory incidents linked to these cases were reported, and the truce among armed groups largely held, with overall violence remaining below the levels observed in 2023 and 2024.

Four of the killings involved firearms or violence linked to criminal activity. On 1 May, unknown host community members killed a male refugee in camp 26, allegedly in connection with his alleged affiliation with the Khaled criminal gang. On 5 May, a male refugee was killed and two other Rohingya individuals were injured; the victim's brother subsequently reported security concerns for himself and his family. On 6 May, a man shot and killed a man in front of Friendship Hospital, camp 8E, as he was walking to the Panbazar, Balukhali, to purchase household goods. On 14 May, unidentified men allegedly part of an organized criminal gang shot and killed a male refugee in H Block in Nayapara registered camp. There were **3 cases of femicides reported** this quarter, in which refugee women were killed by their husbands or in-laws. On 11 April, a female refugee from camp 18 was found dead in her shelter; she had allegedly been physically assaulted by her husband, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law during a family dispute resulting in serious injuries; APBn is investigating the case as murder. On 25 May, in camp 1E, a female refugee was allegedly killed by her husband following a dispute. On 20 June, a female refugee was killed by her husband after being struck on the head with a heavy grinding stone.

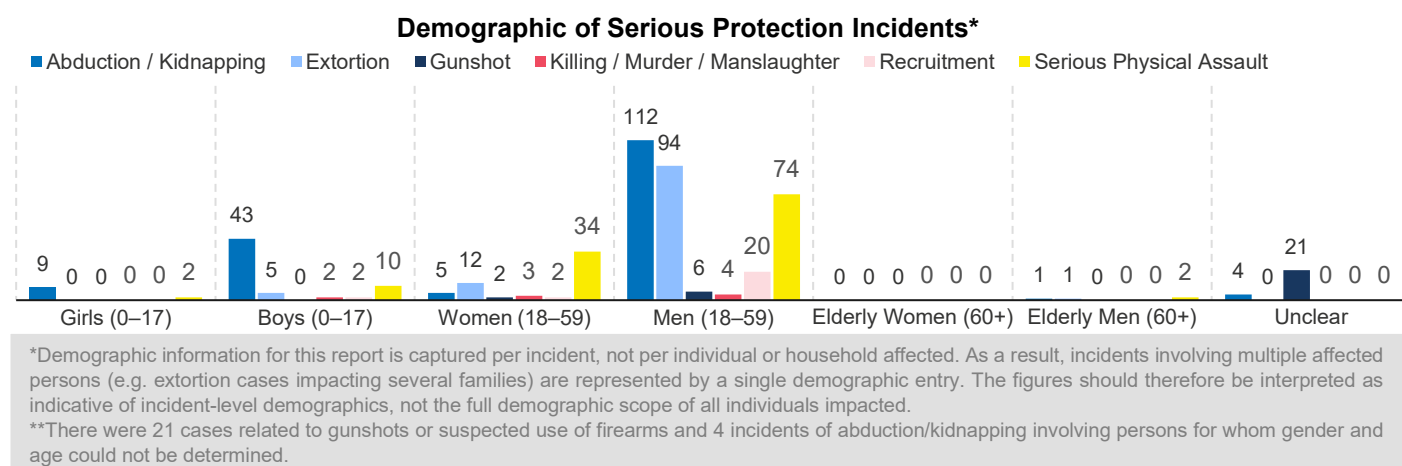
Two additional killings of children were reported. In camp 2W, a 7-year-old boy died six days after being severely beaten by a refugee volunteer working for a water treatment company following a minor infraction of the child plucking out guavas. A second child killing was registered following the child's abduction by a neighbour on 4 June. The abductor demanded a ransom of BDT 500,000 under threat of harm; the child was held for approximately two days and killed despite the family's payment of BDT 380,000 across multiple mobile financial service transfers. The body was recovered eight days later in a decomposed state outside the camp perimeter.

⁶ These figures represent reported trend of return movements rather than necessarily unique individuals, as repeated crossings and possible duplication between aggregated and individual reports could not be fully excluded. The Protection Sector has been advocating with the Government and camp authorities about the importance of preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps, which should not permit active fighters to reside in the camps nor receive assistance.

Incidents of **abductions and kidnappings** slightly increased by 3% compared to the previous quarter and remain the most frequently reported incident throughout the year. Abductions are increasingly taking place in residential areas, markets, and while refugees visit relatives rather than in isolated locations. Ransom demands ranged from BDT 10,000 to over BDT 1,000,000 with increasing incidents of people gambling and resorting to abductions to repay their debts. Children and male adolescents remained disproportionately affected, targeted through deceptive practices in which brokers or acquaintances lured victims with job offers before selling, detaining, or holding them for ransom. Some cases involved trafficking to other countries like Thailand or Malaysia: in camp 1E, two refugees were taken to Teknaf by brokers after being promised passage to Malaysia. Their families reportedly received a ransom demand of BDT 500,000, paid BDT 300,000, and later learned that the victims had been detained in a prison in Myanmar.

Refugees continue to be abducted while engaging in economic activities outside the camp. Victims were reportedly held until payments were received. A resident of camp 1W was reportedly abducted near Chakaria while travelling for work and released only after the family paid BDT 30,000. These exploitative practices exacerbate already significant livelihood challenges faced by refugee households. Armed groups accounted for 37% of the alleged perpetrators followed by unknown individuals (27%). Cases of abduction and forced recruitment were frequently interconnected during the reporting period, with armed groups using coercion, threats, physical violence, and ransom demand to recruit adolescent boys and men or punish perceived non-compliance by abducting them.

The number of **serious physical assault** incidents decreased slightly by 6% during the reporting period. Assaults occurred in the context of extortion practices, increasing disputes amongst refugees and with host community members, criminal activity, or enforcement of informal control mechanisms within the camps. Polygamy-related disputes, gambling-associated physical abuse and gender-based assaults were reported during this quarter impacting, especially, women and adolescent girls. In camp 26, a woman and a 14-year-old girl were seriously injured by members of the host community with a stick and knife, accusing one of them of an alleged relationship with a male refugee. In a separate incident, a dispute over vegetable gardening escalated into a physical assault on a pregnant woman by the wife of an



alleged ARSA member in camp 18. Relatively **minor incidents are reportedly escalating into larger confrontations** with growing concerns that even a small trigger could result in significantly higher levels of violence as was the case of the boy who died after being beaten by a refugee volunteer for picking up fruit.

Severe physical assault from armed groups and organized criminal gangs were also reported. On 10 June, for example, RSO members attacked a shelter and fired three bullets, injuring the victim's wife, then abducted her husband and took him to camp 11, where he was severely beaten. Violent disputes between refugees accounted for 60% while actions from armed groups corresponded to 17%. The remaining incidents were attributed to host communities (12%) and unknown perpetrators (11%).

Reports of **extortion** also increased by 20% and remain a widespread protection concern affecting households, shop owners, vendors, and small businesses in all camps. Perpetrators include law enforcement agencies (45%), host community members (22%), armed groups (15%), refugees (12%) -including some Majhis requesting unofficial payments linked to registration processes, shelter repairs, and other community services-, and civilian authorities (4%). Reports of weak accountability systems at community level and authority level to address misconduct and arbitrary payments for services and mobility continued to foster an enabling environment for abuse. Extortion practices are also linked with house, land and property (HLP) issues: six refugee families from one camp reported facing extortion demands of BDT 100,000 per household from a host community member, accompanied by threats of forced eviction if payments were not made. Female-headed households remain especially vulnerable to intimidation and exploitation with limited access to resources. Linked to extortion practices, refugees also reported destruction of owned businesses if permission to conduct business activities wasn't granted through informal payments.

During this quarter, **men** continued to be disproportionately affected by all security incidents, accounting for 66% followed by boys (13%), women (12%) and girls (2%). A total of 7% of affected refugees age and gender could not be established. There was a 3% increase in the number of affected men heavily affected by incidents of abduction, extortion and serious physical assaults; men, elderly men and boys comprised 90% of all abductions and kidnapping victims. There was a 1% increase in the number of boys being impacted by overall protection incidents and a 2% decrease for women with prevalent numbers of serious physical assaults linked to intimate partner-violence and gambling-associated physical abuse. The **killing of women** continued to be significantly high in relation to 2025 and consistent with the 4 killings reported the first quarter of 2026 with a total of 3 cases reported in what constituted femicides.

Secondary displacements⁷:

Top 10 population movements within the camps

From camp	# HH	# of Refugees
Camp 24	22	91
Camp 13	22	78
Camp 11	23	75
Camp 10	16	41
Camp 2E	16	40
Camp 26	11	36
Camp 16	13	31
Camp 18	6	30
Camp 27	6	24
Bhasan Char	11	22

Armed groups' and organized criminal gang's activity inside the camps and along its boundaries, particularly at night, along with evictions and threats of eviction by landowners and individuals claiming land ownership continued to drive temporary secondary displacement of refugees. Landslide risks, damaged shelter and the desire of some refugees to remain close to their families and social networks also triggered movements in all camps.

A total of 146 households comprising 468 individuals relocated or sought to relocate. As in the previous quarter, camp 24 had the highest number of movements, with 22 households comprising 91 individuals leaving primarily due to security concerns,

including criminal group activities, threats from criminal gangs and eviction notices by landowners.

The majority of these families relocated to camp 14 and camp 4E.

Movements from Bhasan Char were driven by returnees seeking specialized medical access, livelihood opportunities and proximity to relatives in the mainland camps, predominantly relocating to camp 9 and camp 22.

In camps 13 and 11, landslide vulnerability in hilly blocks was the main driver of secondary displacements, with several households leaving after their shelters were found to be at risk; this included a relocation of seven households from camp 13 to camp 20E. In camp 16, armed group threats, host community extortion and shelters that were damaged contributed to the decision of refugees to leave. In one case, a female-headed household relocated after an armed group abducted the eldest son and demanded a 170,000 BDT ransom, with security concerns persisting after his release, she sought support from relatives as an informal protection mechanism. Movements from camp 9 were mainly linked to shelter unavailability, forcing households to seek relocation across other camps.

As in previous quarters, documented figures likely underrepresent actual movements, as cases reflect only those identified through partner monitoring activities and case management. The top camps where refugees relocated to during the reporting period were camp 2, camp 9, camp 11, camp 20E and camp 24.

The protection situation in **Bhasan Char** remained broadly consistent with the previous quarter: with most cases arising from family, intimate-partner violence and intra-community disputes. Economic stress continues to drive community tensions among refugee families. Disputes over undocumented financial transactions increasingly arose in the context of gambling-related debt, with some individuals reportedly leaving for the mainland to avoid the payment of debt, and a number of these escalating into physical confrontations. Following the introduction of WFP's targeting and prioritization exercise, staff observed an apparent rise in fabricated family disputes reportedly intended to split family registration files. There were also allegations of corruption involving Majhis and Government officials with small payments reportedly solicited for routine administrative matters. Involvement of boys and male adolescents in criminal activity reported in the previous quarter persisted. Main protection concerns for children were linked to neglect and early marriage.

⁷ 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).


130

Refugees Identified


76

Men


22

Women


23

Boys


9

Girls

During the reporting period, 130 refugees were identified as victims of human trafficking, reflecting an increase compared to the 119 cases recorded in the first quarter of 2026 and continuing the upward trend seen since the fourth quarter of 2025. Males continued to account for the majority of victims (76%), and the overall profile of victims remained broadly consistent with the previous quarter, although recruitment methods varied notably by gender. Most men were promised paid work (75%) before being subjected to forced labour, whereas among women the most frequently reported lure was a promise of marriage (42%), followed by offers of paid work (35%). A total of 32 children, comprising 23 boys and 9 girls, were identified as victims, representing around a quarter of those identified. Refugees' homes/shelters were reported as the main sites of initial contact with the traffickers. Among the recorded victims, 61% remained in Bangladesh, while 39% were reportedly trafficked outside the country, mainly to Malaysia, with cases also reported in Myanmar.

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 (ATWG), available [here](#).



CHILD PROTECTION⁸

Children in the Rohingya camps continue to face increasing and interconnected protection risks. Between April and June 2026, the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) recorded 4,976 new child protection cases involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children across the Rohingya camps and Bhasan Char. This represents a **38% increase** compared to the first quarter of 2026. During the same period, the Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) collected qualitative and quantitative information through 365 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with adolescents, caregivers, community members, volunteers, and service providers across 31 camps. In parallel, the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) recorded 712 incidents affecting 829 children during the second quarter of the year, confirming the persistence of serious child rights violations. These sources point to a consistent trend of growing insecurity, heightened caregiver stress, increased exposure to armed groups, and child protection services struggling to keep pace with rising needs.

Child marriage was the most significant protection concern reported this quarter: 34% of key informants reported the presence of child marriage in their communities, a 4% increase from 30% in quarter 1, 2026, which is the sharpest deterioration of any indicator tracked this quarter. CPIMS+ data recorded **315 child marriage cases** during the reporting period, affecting mainly children in the 15–17 age band (70%), followed by children aged 7–14 (29%). According to Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), families identified household poverty, romantic relationships among adolescents that, in some cases, result in elopement or informal marriage, religious beliefs and social norms, growing insecurity, limited access to education, and food insecurity as the main drivers of child marriage. In an increasingly uncertain environment, some families also perceive early marriage as a protective strategy for their daughters. However, this coping mechanism often exposes children particularly girls, to greater risks, including early pregnancy, school dropout, domestic violence, and other forms of exploitation.

Child labour remains widespread and is increasing across the Rohingya camps. Two in three community members said child labour was happening around them. This is also consistent with the case management data, which recorded a **69% increase** in child labour cases during the second quarter of 2026, rising from 344 cases in quarter 1 to 582 cases for this quarter. 92% of the caseload corresponds to boys who are mostly working in markets, carrying loads, or driving auto-rickshaws. Girls are reportedly engaging in unpaid domestic labour, though a small number of girls were engaging in forced labour, including exploitation for sexual purposes. Household poverty remains the primary driver of child labour, cited by approximately 34% of respondents for boys and 31% for girls. Families also reported that child labour is increasingly used as a negative coping mechanism to offset economic hardship. The most frequently reported

⁸ This situation monitoring report is a triangulated analysis of child protection concerns collected through Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM), Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM), and CPIMS+ case management data points present a dual and mutually reinforcing protection crisis. At household level, poverty, caregiver stress, and mental health challenges are driving neglect, domestic violence, school dropout, and psychosocial distress. At community level, insecurity, armed group presence, and weak rule of law are increasing risks of recruitment, abduction, trafficking, and sexual violence.

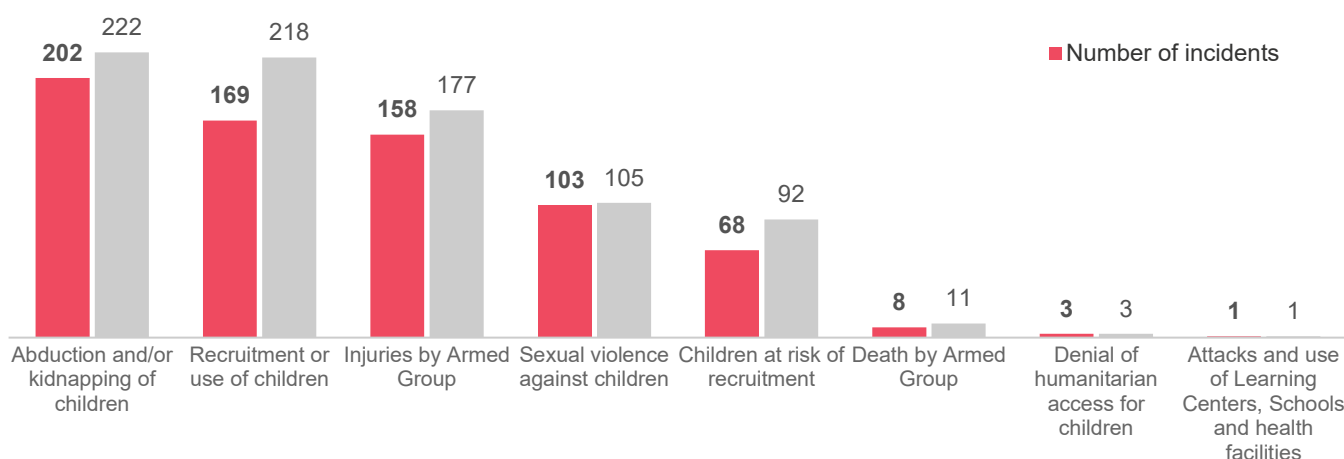
consequence is school dropout, followed by physical injury and increased exposure to exploitation, abuse, and other protection risks, underscoring the urgent need for integrated livelihoods, education, and child protection interventions.

Neglect remains the single most common protection concern, accounting for roughly 29% of all cases in Cox's Bazar and 28% in Bhasan Char and was reported by 62% of families interviewed. Nearly six in ten caregivers say their own mental health struggles are getting in the way of caring for their children; the largest change recorded this quarter, up from about half at the start of the year. Families also reported a shift in the consequences of neglect: while school dropout was previously seen as the main outcome, children's mental health is now identified as the most significant impact, indicating a growing emotional burden on children. Reports of domestic violence declined slightly during the quarter; however, underlying drivers such as limited parenting support and economic hardship remain widespread.

Sexual violence against children remains under-reported, but the evidence points to a worsening situation. Community reports of children at risk of, or affected by, sexual violence rose this quarter, and cases described as happening "often" rather than occasionally — **nearly doubled**, from 15% to 24%. Most child survivors were reported to be harmed by someone they know: family members and relatives account for about 29% of reported cases, followed by armed group members (22%). Reports involving community leaders, nearly doubled from 9% to 16% of cases; people children and families are often told to turn to for help.

Recruitment and abduction by armed groups remain the most severe threats children face, consistent quarter 1 of trends, accounting for many serious violations Boys and adolescent males are the primary targets. During the reporting period, **712 incidents** of serious child rights violations were reported through the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism, affecting 829 children (68% were boys, 26% were girls, and 6% were recorded as other/unknown). 338 incidents (47.47%) were verified, and 265 incidents (37.22%) were confirmed to a reasonable level⁹. The highest number of incidents was reported in camp 5 (39 incidents), followed by camp 4 (38 incidents), camp 8E (37 incidents), and camp 2E (37 incidents). Abduction and/or kidnapping of children remained the highest reported violation with 202 incidents, followed by recruitment or use of children (169 incidents) and injuries by armed group (158 incidents). Boys and adolescent males are the primary targets. ARSA and RSO have been verified as responsible for most reported violations, including recruitment, sexual violence, and abduction. At the same time, families appear increasingly reluctant to discuss armed group activity out of fear.

Types of incidents and affected children reported through Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM)



During this quarter, 65 new child protection cases were registered in Bhasan Char and by the end of the quarter, the child protection team was managing 675 active cases. Girls accounted for 55% of the caseload, while boys represented 45%. Neglect was the most frequently reported child protection concern, accounting for 28% of all recorded concerns, followed by physical abuse (19%), forced marriage (11%), and sexual abuse or risk of sexual abuse (9%). Other notable concerns included harmful traditional practices (8%), psychological distress (6%), and child labour (5%). Smaller numbers of cases involved child trafficking risk, serious medical conditions, children associated with armed forces or armed groups (CAAFAG), pregnancy among child mothers, and unaccompanied children. Overall, this profile is broadly consistent with the previous quarter while providing a more granular understanding of protection risks affecting children on the island.

⁹ Incidents assessed as credible and likely to have occurred based on reliable information, although full verification was not possible.

Taken together, these trends point to a protection system facing rising needs with stretched capacity to respond. Case volumes rose by 38% this quarter, caregiver stress continues to deepen, and the risks children face: armed group recruitment, child marriage, and violence. Continued investment in frontline capacity, mental health support woven into everyday casework, and in closer attention to whom children are encouraged to trust for help, are critical.

Gender-based violence (GBV) against children remained widespread and underreported. 25% of key informants reported risks of sexual violence affecting children. CRMM data confirms a strongly gendered pattern: girls account for **over 90% of reported sexual violence survivors** for this quarter, despite representing a much smaller proportion of total affected children. Stigma, social restrictions, safety concerns, and limited confidential access to services—particularly for adolescent girls—remain major barriers to disclosure and support.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) consistently emphasize that child protection risks are interconnected and structurally driven. Children describe chronic poverty, insecurity, overcrowding, and restrictive gender norms as shaping everyday risks and harmful coping strategies. Child labour and child marriage are widely normalized, domestic violence is commonly linked to stress and lack of awareness, and nearly half of FGDs reported awareness of children, primarily boys, being coerced or encouraged to join organized or armed groups.

While awareness of child protection services exists, access remains constrained by distance, safety concerns, social restrictions (especially for girls), and limited visibility and trust in services. Children and adolescents emphasized the need for livelihood and vocational opportunities, recreational activities and safe spaces, increased presence of female staff, stronger referral pathways, and services located closer to residential areas.

As in the previous quarter, the scale and trajectory of reported cases signal a growing risk of system overload. Case volumes have more than quadrupled compared to 2025, and without proportional expansion of frontline capacity, response quality and timeliness are likely to deteriorate. Many children face intersecting vulnerabilities such as neglect combined with separation, disability, or exposure to violence underscoring the need for integrated, multi-sectoral case management rather than siloed responses.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

In the reporting period, GBV cases **increased by 10%** compared to the first quarter of 2026, according to the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS). While generally an increase in recorded GBV incidents reflects fewer systemic barriers to disclosure and growing access to GBV case management services, field observations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and camp focal point (CFP) feedback indicated heightened GBV risks across the Rohingya camps, driven by interconnected factors. Worsening economic hardship, unemployment, substance abuse, online gambling, and financial extortion are increasing household stress and tension, contributing to sustained levels of intimate partner violence (IPV): **72%** of all cases received in quarter 2 (73% in quarter 1). Growing criminal activity including human trafficking, kidnapping, robbery and drug-related activities is further deteriorating the security environment within the camps. The period registered three femicide incidents, including a case where a young child was murdered alongside the mother. In one instance, the perpetrator was a drug-dependent husband who allegedly killed his wife after she was unable to provide money to buy drugs, highlighting the extreme consequences of substance abuse, economic stress and IPV.

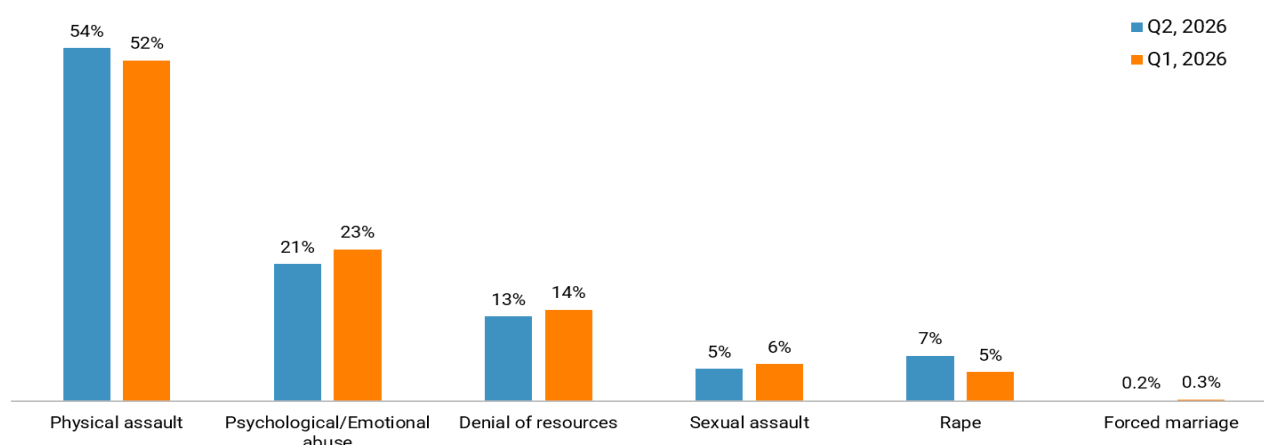
Women and adolescent girls are particularly affected by these overlapping risks, facing heightened exposure to violence and exploitation both within the household and in the wider community. Females accounted for 97% of reported GBV cases; 82% involved married women, while the remainder were single, divorced or widowed, and 1% involved persons with disabilities, reflecting intersecting vulnerabilities. Their risks are further compounded by restricted freedom of movement, inadequate lighting, reduced support services and barriers to reporting, including fear, stigma and concerns about confidentiality. Field observations and FGDs further highlighted threats affecting women and girls in the wider community, including harassment, threats, sexual violence and insecurity linked to armed group activity. Reports also indicated pressure on survivors and their families, including discouragement from pursuing legal action. Night-time incidents involving unidentified individuals repeatedly knocking on female- and girl-headed households' shelters and throwing bricks at shelters further heightened fear and insecurity among residents.

Newly arrived Rohingya families are increasingly residing in rented accommodation outside the camps near the border, with men often working as day labourers and women engaging in domestic work. These arrangements have exposed women and adolescent girls to heightened risks of sexual exploitation and assault, and human trafficking. GBV actors have expressed grave concern over the lack of adequate shelter for newly arrived Rohingya, particularly within the monsoon season. Beyond shelter needs, these vulnerable households remain at high risk of exploitation, protection

violations, and continued suffering, including housing, land, and property (HLP) concerns, particularly financial demands and exploitation by members of the host community.

Physical violence remained the most reported form of GBV during this quarter, accounting for **54%** of all types of GBV cases. Within intimate relationships, patriarchal attitudes, gender inequality and perceptions that men have the right to discipline women were identified as important factors, particularly when women asserted their rights or resisted unwanted sexual relations. In most of the camps, GBV actors linked domestic violence to husbands' polygamous relationships and conflict around unmet household expectations. Additionally, a dispute over a financial penalty resulted in a woman being severely assaulted at her shelter, requiring hospital treatment. Physical assault was also frequently reported alongside domestic violence involving mothers-in-law, in some cases, indicating that violence can extend beyond the intimate partner to other household members.

Top types of GBV Reported (%), Q2 2026



Emotional and psychological violence remained the second-most reported form of GBV, accounting for **21%** of cases reported in quarter 2 (23% in quarter 1). This included verbal abuse, threats, humiliation, controlling behaviour, threats of divorce or abandonment and social isolation, often occurring alongside other forms of IPV. Women reported emotional abuse related to reproductive expectations, including pressure or insults for giving birth to daughters instead of sons, or not having children, as well as restrictions on reproductive choices and power over their own income. The quarter also highlighted an emerging digital dimension, with adolescent girls and young women facing increasing online harassment, unwanted communication, threats to disclose private images or videos, cyberbullying and misuse of images. Limited awareness that emotional abuse constitutes GBV was identified as a concern as well, potentially contributing to under-recognition and reporting. Moreover, funding cuts have led to reduced positive male engagement in promoting gender equality and further limited progress in addressing these patterns at the household level.

Denial of resources amounted to **13%** during the reporting period (14% in quarter 1). Findings show that this form of violence was particularly evident within intimate relationships, where women's access to household resources and financial decision-making remained constrained. Field observations documented a case in which a husband denied resources to his first wife following a second marriage, alongside reported marital rape. Findings further indicate that survivors mostly remain dependent on perpetrators for housing, food, income and childcare, making it difficult to challenge the abuse or seek formal support. Resource deprivation was also reported alongside other forms of controlling behaviour, including preventing women from using their own income.

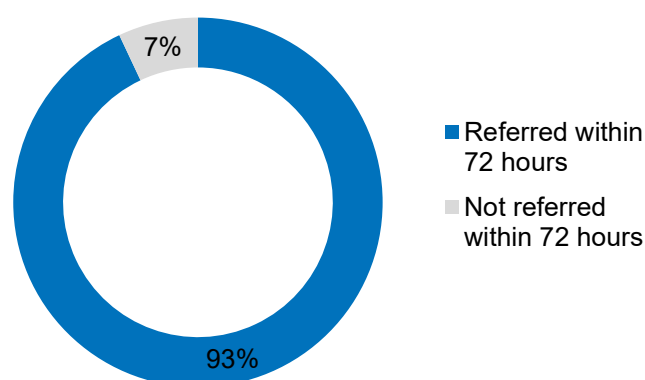
Sexual violence represented **12%** of reported GBV cases in Q2 2026, up from 11% in Q1, with rape increasing from 5% to 7% while sexual assault declined from 6% to 5%. Triangulation of reported cases with KII and FGD findings identified armed group members as the most frequently reported perpetrators of rape and sexual assault, followed by family friends or neighbours and intimate partners. Marital rape was also reported, with women experiencing sexual violence when resisting unwanted sexual relations, reflecting harmful perceptions of marital entitlement and unequal power within relationships. The quarter also highlighted the intersection between sexual violence and unsafe cross-border movement, with reports of adolescent girls being pressured into marriage with men abroad and survivors of sexual violence being sent overseas rather than receiving appropriate protection and support, increasing their risk of further harm. At the same time, the increasing consideration of irregular onward movements as a coping strategy may place women and girls in situations where they have limited protection and greater exposure to sexual violence and abuse.

Forced marriage accounted for **0.2%** of reported GBV cases in quarter 2 (0.3% the previous quarter). Key drivers included family pressure, financial hardship, limited access to education and awareness of rights, and girls' limited ability to challenge parental decisions. Some families viewed child marriage as a means of protecting girls from insecurity or reducing household burdens, while harmful perceptions around dowry reinforced the practice, including the belief that marrying daughters at a younger age requires a lower dowry. These pressures can lead girls to discontinue their education and enter marriage before they are able to make informed and voluntary decisions. Field findings further documented adolescent girls receiving marriage proposals and facing threats when they refused. Emerging patterns of transactional and cross-border marriages facilitated by brokers, including arrangements involving men in Malaysia, present additional protection concerns.

During this quarter, out of GBV cases referred to the legal services, **58% of survivors declined legal services** compared to 64% in the previous quarter. Fear that pursuing legal action could expose survivors or their children to retaliation, further violence or threats remained the most frequently reported concern. At the same time, limited confidence in formal justice mechanisms - including concerns about lengthy procedures, delays in case follow-up, confidentiality and whether complaints would result in meaningful action - continued to influence survivors' decisions. Some survivors preferred to preserve family relationships or resolve cases through reconciliation or community-level mechanisms, particularly where they feared that formal action could lead to separation or other consequences for the family. However, reliance on informal mechanisms also presents protection concerns, as serious GBV cases may be encouraged towards mediation or resolved outside formal justice processes, sometimes without adequately considering the survivor's safety and wishes. Practical barriers, including distance, transportation costs, repeated follow-up requirements, caregiving responsibilities and limited awareness of legal rights and available services, further reduced survivors' ability to continue with legal referrals.

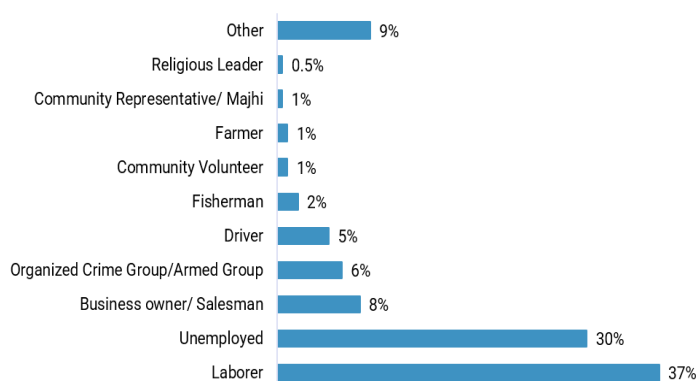
93% of survivors were able to access lifesaving Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services within 72 hours. However, timely access remained affected by fear of medical examinations, forensic evidence collection, psychological distress, stigma and confidentiality concerns. Fear of legal procedures, including the misconception that accessing a One Stop Crisis Center (OCC) automatically requires filing a legal case, and fear of perpetrators, limited family support, transportation and caregiver costs, also affected timely access. Service-level observations further identified gaps in provider knowledge, referral practices and awareness of available CMR capacity, indicating a need for more consistent and streamlined referral practices. Family restrictions on movement or referral, including by fathers or brothers, and concerns about confidentiality further contributed to delayed disclosure and care-seeking.

Percentage of rape cases referred/treated within 72 hours of the incidents Q2 2026



The perpetrators and survivors' relationship profiles indicated that 72% of incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners, 6% by other family members, 9% by family friends or neighbour. Notably, 87% of all reported incidents occurred within the survivor's residence. Although representing a smaller proportion, the identification of community-level volunteers among alleged perpetrators (1%) also highlights the breach of safeguarding and accountability among actors who hold community access or influence. Labour exploitation and underpayment of Rohingya workers represent additional forms of economic vulnerability that may heighten exposure to exploitation and other protection risks, particularly where workers have limited ability to challenge abusive or coercive conditions.

Alleged Perpetrator Occupation



*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 increased compared to the previous quarter, with 61 reported incidents affecting 2,032 individuals, compared to 52 reported incidents affecting 2,344 individuals in quarter 1. Social cohesion is increasingly shaped by broader governance and protection dynamics rather than isolated disputes between refugees and host community members. Disputes over land, shelter rent, and shelter repair and maintenance continue to be frequently exploited by host community landowners and individuals claiming ownership over land or services. Limited access to water, agricultural land, shared pathways and public spaces continues to trigger altercations between camp residents and host communities. Armed and criminal actors reportedly use minor disputes as pretext for assault and extortion, occasionally escalating into serious violence. Financial hardship and livelihood restrictions have contributed to a sharp rise in highly addictive online gambling, driving disputes between host community members and refugees over unpaid debts, including incidents of physical violence.

Incidents captured under the category “other” were armed group/organized criminal gang rivalry and minor disputes over football matches, theft of solar panels, and firewood collection. A violent clash in Leda Nur Ali Para (host community bordering camp 24) between individuals from the host community and the Rohingya refugee community took place over the distribution of money from a kidnapping-related action. The disagreement gradually escalated into an armed confrontation, resulting in an exchange of gunfire between the two groups. In camp 9, an ex-Head Majhi and two RSO members reportedly lured a man suspected of being Bangladeshi into the camp under the pretext of a business deal before severely assaulting him. Similarly, in camp 24, seven members of an organized criminal gang assaulted a Rohingya man with belts; residents reported being unable to intervene out of fear of retaliation.

On the outskirts of camp 1E, an armed attack allegedly took place in the Lombashia area, during which several refugees and host community members were reportedly assaulted and shelters were vandalized; five host community members reportedly sustained injuries; the incident created heightened tension and fear among residents in the surrounding area, with community members seeking increased security measures and law enforcement presence to prevent further violence.

Additional incidents reported under “other” included the case of a widowed Rohingya woman in camp 24 that was harassed by a group of 5 host community members who kicked her door and used abusive language and attempted to force it open while she remained inside. There were reports of informal or second marriages between host community men and Rohingya women. In some cases, these arrangements were associated with abandonment of first spouses, denial of resources, and heightened intimate partner violence, particularly in contexts with limited legal or social accountability. Adolescent girls face growing risks of coercion, harassment, and violence, including unwanted marriage proposals, intimidation following refusal, and sexual harassment during movement to external service points. In camp 24, another widow was harassed by a host community man after refusing his marriage proposal. In camp 25, adolescent girls faced safety threats, including threats of abduction, from host community organized criminal gang members with some Rohingya involvement.

Incidents related to livelihoods and economic vulnerability were driven by tensions between host community farmers and refugee community members over agricultural land leasing practices and supply of resources. In camp 22, discussion and negotiations between refugees and host community members were reported over growing competition for access to cultivable land. Host community farmers reported that land previously leased at approximately BDT 20,000 per kani¹⁰ is now being leased for BDT 28,000-30,000 per kani, as some refugee community members were offering higher rental rates. As a result, vulnerable host community farmers who rely on agriculture as their primary livelihood are increasingly unable to afford land for cultivation, negatively affecting their income-generating opportunities. The situation has contributed to growing frustration among some host community members, who expressed concern that continued competition over land access and livelihoods could heighten tensions and increase the risk of future conflict if left unaddressed.

Concerns over WFP's Fresh Food Corner pilot programme in camp 4 also resulted in an altercation where host community members argued that enabling Rohingya vendors to supply fresh food directly to refugees via e-voucher displaced the previous system of procuring fish and meat from Bangladeshi farmers and reduced local livelihood opportunities. Tensions escalated further on 1 June near camp 22, when 15–20 host community members entered land leased by refugee farmers and cut down their vegetable crops in apparent retaliation for the same lease competition.

¹⁰ Unit of land measurement commonly used in Bangladesh. The exact size of a *kani* can vary but in the Cox's Bazar area it is generally considered to be approximately 0.3 acres/1,200 square meters.

Refugee firewood collection led to a large-scale enforcement action, with the Forest Department detaining 26 Rohingya individuals across multiple beat areas in Ukhiya's reserved forests, citing ongoing environmental damage from tree cutting near the camps. Livestock rearing produced a separate conflict near camp 22, where host community members captured eight refugee-owned goats over concerns about crop damage and market competition; the dispute was resolved through an informal payment of BDT 1,500 per goat, though two goats went missing during the exchange, leaving residual mistrust.

Incidents involving day labor and trade transactions were also reported. In Unchiprang, a host community employer attempted to underpay five refugee day laborers after they completed agreed work. In a separate incident in Putibunia, host community members were caught taking mangoes without permission from a garden leased and managed by refugee traders, leading to threats before community intervention de-escalated the situation. There was a dispute over an exchange of human hair for food items in camp 9 after a host community member accused a Rohingya woman of providing fake hair.

Several incidents involved disputes over landownership, rental arrangements, and property access, including an unresolved land and housing dispute in camp 13 and a protest by host community members near camp 4 following an alleged attack and vandalism of a local resident's property that was reportedly linked to attempts to seize land. In camp 4, tensions also arose over the closure of a public pathway and competing land claims.

The absence of formal shelter allocation for new arrivals has resulted in a highly informal and exploitative system¹¹ characterized by overcrowding, insecure tenure, rental exploitation, frequent displacement and additional tensions. No additional land has been allocated to refugees. An estimated 72% of households surveyed reported insufficient shelter space and refugees described situations where multiple families shared a single shelter, with individuals having to take turns to sleep. This has forced newly arrived families - particularly women and girls - into overcrowded, shared living arrangements with relatives or acquaintances, increasing exposure to psychological, emotional, and sexual abuse within informal household settings and heightening exposure to transactional and survival sex, child and forced marriage, and other harmful coping mechanisms with potential of becoming easy targets for trafficking. Approximately 38% of newly arrived refugees pay rent. This is often done by means of verbal agreements and 90% of those renting a house reported having no written agreement. These arrangements frequently involve host community members, Majhis, or other refugees acting as informal landlords.

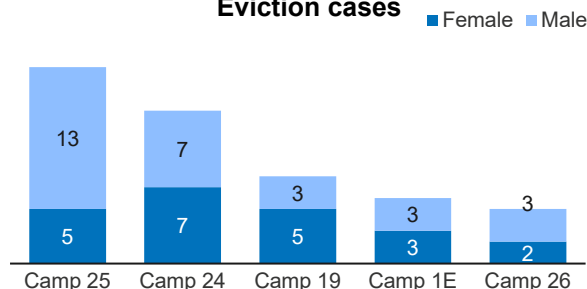
Reports of extortion and exploitation linked to land tenure and shelter occupancy remained a significant concern. Refugees reported being forced to make various payments to host community members claiming landownership or authority over shelter modifications. In several camps, Majhis reportedly threatened new arrivals with demolition of their shelters if payments were not made. Conditions are particularly acute in Teknaf camps, especially camps 24, 25 and 26, where camp boundaries overlap with privately owned land. These areas were reported to have experienced higher levels of rental disputes, water sharing disputes, eviction threats, and HLP-related protection concerns. Examples include a household head getting extorted of BDT 5,000 in shelter rent and deprived of food assistance items, a refugee compelled to pay BDT 3,500 for adding a shelter corridor, and a widow extorted BDT 4,000 to repair her shelter. Other incidents included demands for payment to extend shelters, the coercive collection of rice and cooking oil from refugee households under threat of eviction, and threats against six families in camp 8E who were reportedly asked to pay BDT 100,000 each or face eviction. In another case, a newly arrived family paid BDT 300,000 for a shelter after being promised access to NGO-supported sanitation facilities, only to be denied access and asked for an additional BDT 20,000, leaving the family without adequate sanitation access.

A total of 598 HLP cases were recorded across refugee camps and host-community locations during the second quarter of 2026. Of these, 280 cases (47%) involved women. Disputes accounted for the largest share of the caseload with 257 cases (43%), followed by relocation with 227 cases (38%); together these two categories accounted for 81% of all reported cases. **Disputes and relocation needs remained the primary drivers of HLP** concerns during the reporting period. A total of 62 eviction-related cases were recorded across 12 camps, comprising 29 actual evictions and 33 threats of eviction, reflecting continued tenure insecurity among refugee households. HLP documentation cases totalled 20, consisting of 13 use-rights cases, six tenancy-agreement cases, and one ownership-document case. A further 19 inheritance cases were recorded, all within host-community locations in Ukhiya and Teknaf, indicating that HLP challenges also affect host communities. Camps 11, 13, 7, 24, 19, 9, 25, 21, and 8E recorded the highest overall HLP caseloads, while camps 25, 24, 19, 1E, and 26 accounted for the highest number of eviction cases.

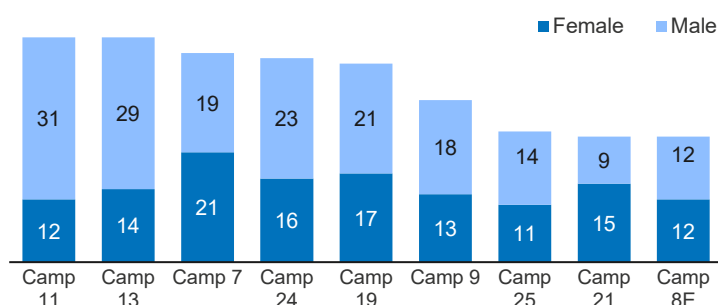
¹¹ The HLP assessment found that newly arrived refugees access shelter through several informal pathways. 41% of them stay with relatives inside camps, 35 per cent occupy shelters they rent or have informally acquired, and 17 per cent live outside camps with host community members: [HLP Situation of Newly Arrived Refugees in Cox's Bazar -Assessment Report - January 2026](#)

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

Top 5 Refugee Camps with highest Eviction cases



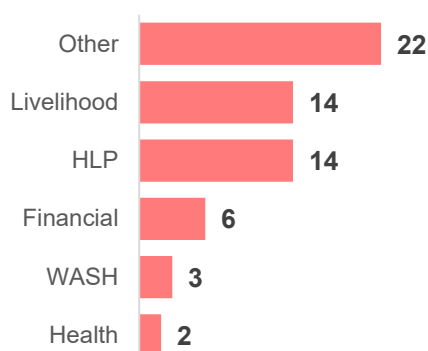
Top 9 Refugee Camps with highest HLP cases



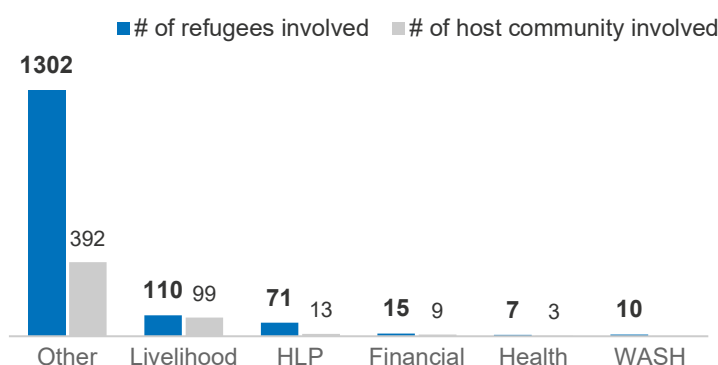
Several incidents involved disputes over financial obligations and business partnerships. A refugee trader in Unchiprang was reportedly detained and assaulted by four host community members over an alleged debt of BDT 8,000 linked to a business partnership. In a separate incident, a host community male was reportedly stabbed by a Rohingya individual following a dispute over an advance payment for seasonal work that had not been completed. Disagreements related to services and small-scale commerce were also reported. On 12 April, seven refugee family members travelling from camp 22 to camp 21 were involved in a dispute after a host community tom-tom driver allegedly demanded a higher fare than the amount agreed before the journey. Although the incident remained verbal, the passengers reportedly paid the increased fare under pressure. Similarly, a minor physical altercation occurred between a host community shopkeeper and a Rohingya customer in camp 24 after an argument over the quality and quantity of betel leaves, while another Rohingya refugee was reportedly punched and slapped following a dispute over a business transaction.

Debt-related disputes also generated protection concerns. In camp 24, a man allegedly lost possession of his sister's tom-tom after borrowing money from a host community lender, who reportedly retained the vehicle until the debt was repaid. There were 3 reported incidents related to frictions over shared water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure; in camp 19, for example, a male refugee blocked two neighbouring families from using a shared toilet, claiming it had been designated exclusively for his household. The affected families disputed this, stating the facility had been shared among six families for the past two years and that they had now been completely denied access. The 2 incidents under health were related to disputes over perceived preference over host community members to access health facilities.

of incidents reported



of refugees and host community involved in the incidents



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Between April and June, 9,485 refugees (58% women and girls) received legal aid services. Of these, 6,331 refugees received legal counselling, 168 were assisted to file cases with police or courts, 45 were released from detention following legal intervention, and 157 were represented in court proceedings. Mediation support was provided in 1,277 cases involving 2,554 refugees, 84% of the cases were successfully resolved through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, compared with 77% in the previous quarter. Legal assistance was provided mainly in cases involving abduction, physical assault, human trafficking, and family disputes. In addition, 10,470 refugees were reached through 616 group awareness sessions on legal procedures and available services.

A significant development was recorded in May, when the Cyber Tribunal in Chattogram admitted the **first known cybercrime case filed on behalf of a Rohingya refugee** and ordered the police to conduct a formal investigation. Refugees had previously faced difficulties accessing cybercrime remedies because their identification documents were not nationally recognized, resulting in complaints reportedly being rejected in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. The admission followed sustained advocacy by legal partners since 2025 and provides an important procedural reference for facilitating refugees' access to remedies for cyber-related crimes.

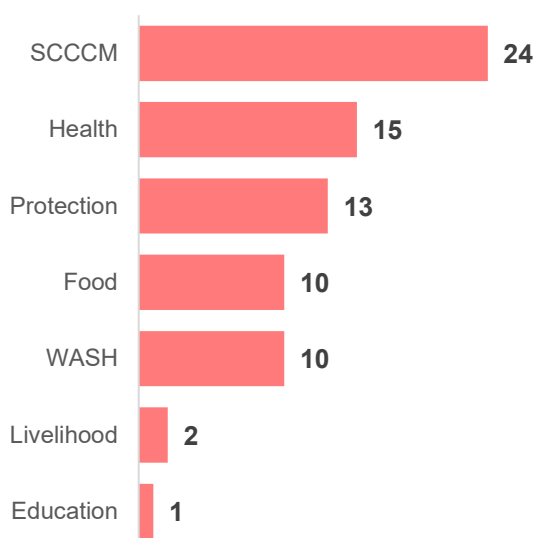
Despite this development, refugees continued to face significant barriers to formal justice. Delays in investigations and prosecutions, limited communication and coordination by investigating officers, and capacity constraints among the police and APBn affected timely case follow-up. Refugees also reported threats and intimidation by alleged perpetrators, fear of retaliation, and concerns that confidential information shared with law enforcement personnel could be disclosed. Allegations of arbitrary detention, confiscation of phones and documents, and demands for payments in exchange for release, permission to conduct business, or avoidance of sanctions further undermined confidence in formal mechanisms during the reporting period.

Consequently, many refugees continued to rely on Majhis, community leaders, CiC offices, and other camp-level actors to resolve disputes. While some participants reported that camp authorities facilitated fair resolutions, concerns about inconsistent, delayed, or partial decisions were recorded. Refugees reported perceptions of favouritism, informal payments, unequal treatment, and abuse of authority, including requests for money in exchange for dispute resolution reported in several camps. Limited confidence in both formal and informal mechanisms has contributed to underreporting, particularly in cases involving armed groups, gender-based violence, exploitation, and abuse of power. Rather than resolving disputes, these processes perpetuate existing inequalities and continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities for refugees.

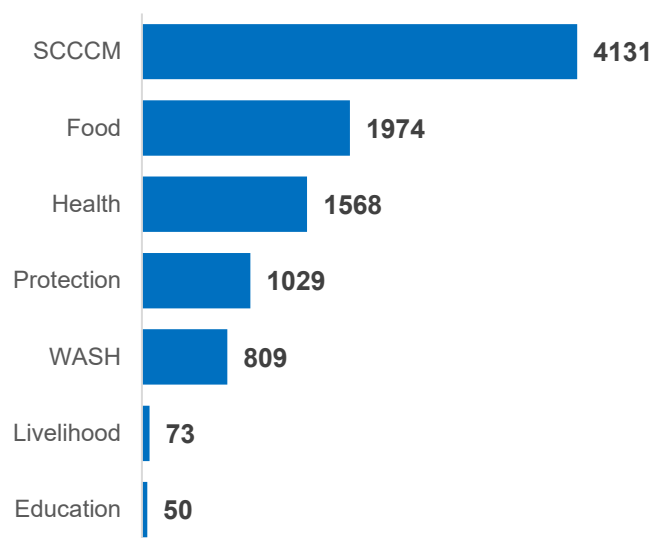
ACCESS TO SERVICES

During the second quarter, refugees reported 75 incidents related to access to services, affecting 9,634 individuals. Compared with the previous quarter, the number of incidents decreased by approximately 41%, from 127 to 75, while the number of individuals affected increased by approximately 165%. This difference reflects a shift from predominantly household-level denial or unequal access to larger-scale reductions, delays or suspensions of services affecting entire blocks. Denial or unequal access accounted for 45 incidents (60%), affecting 2,790 individuals (29%). Reduced, delayed or suspended services accounted for 30 incidents (40%). Community members attributed most of these disruptions to funding and budget constraints. Denial or unequal access was most frequently reported under Protection, Shelter–CCCM and Health services. Related gaps included LPG distribution delayed by four to eleven days and insufficient to last a full month, prompting some families to use firewood.

Access to Services Incidents in Q2 2026
(# of Incidents by Sector)



Access to Services Incidents in Q2 2026
(# of refugees affected by sector)



Shelter–CCCM concerns accounted for 24 reported incidents. As in the previous quarter, cases involved households reporting unrepaired shelter damage, including tilting or collapsed structures, and deterioration over periods of months, with assistance reportedly not provided despite requests to service providers due to insufficient funding. In camp 16, one household reported living in a damaged shelter for 6 months before heavy rainfall forced the family to relocate to a relative's home. In camp 20E, households reported not having received shelter repair materials for more than four years, with some families arguing others had benefitted from earlier distributions while others remained excluded. In camp 21, a refugee reported receiving lower grade shelter materials than assessed and alleged being threatened with abduction by host community members following the dispute.

Health-related concerns were reported in 15 incidents, most involving individuals reportedly turned away from facilities due to shortage of medications or where treatment had recently been provided. Cases included an elderly woman and an asthma patient, and a woman refused treatment at night due to working hours. A child was reportedly sent home without medicine when record books were unavailable; this continues to be a problem for new arrivals who do not have record books due to lack of full registration. Community members in camp 7 reported that the ambulance services had been discontinued for approximately one year, and in camp 25 there were reports of limited treatment owing to medicine shortages at the only hospital serving the area.

Protection-related concerns accounted for 13 incidents and were predominantly related to registration and civil documentation issues. On civil documentation: in camp 5, four marriage applications were reportedly rejected on the basis of country of birth entries recorded as Bangladesh, with further applications pending. Approval of these applications was reported to have been withheld by camp management pending guidance from the RRRC, despite repeated advocacy on the distinction between place of birth, origin, and arrival. Several children of refugee women married to Bangladeshi nationals remained excluded from Family Attestation Cards owing to missing birth records or requirements to produce the father's national identity document. A related and more serious registration concern was also identified this quarter: a small number of Camp-in-Charges reportedly restricted newly arrived refugees' access to biometric enrolment in several camps. In a limited number of cases, new arrivals were referred to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) for nationality verification; where BGB verification indicated the individuals were from Rakhine, they were reportedly deported. This risk of refoulement was raised with the authorities, and the practice was reported to have stopped by the end of the reporting period. Other cases included difficulty obtaining a Registration Appointment and a Birth Information Note withheld following relocation to another camp.

Reductions in disability services were also reported in camps 7 and 24, where limited coverage during a partner transition left some persons with disabilities without rehabilitation and assistive device support.

WASH-related concerns were reported in 10 incidents, several involving the denial of access to shared sanitation and water facilities. In camp 16, six families reported being without a washroom for nearly a year, forcing women to cross a road and pass the mosque to reach an alternative latrine. In camp 10, water access was reported to be inequitably managed, with volunteers allegedly favouring certain households and permitting private pipe connections and leaving others unable to collect water. Persistent drainage and sanitation concerns were also reported, including sludge left beside drains and a latrine locked by one of two sharing families.

Food-related concerns were reported in 10 incidents, most linked to WFP's prioritization and targeting exercise¹² that changes assistance modality from USD 12 to USD 10, and USD 7 for some profiles. Households in the lowest tier, reported that the assistance was insufficient, and community members perceived the categorization as inequitable. In camp 10, a household headed by a person with a disability reported remaining at USD 10 despite believing it met the criteria for the full ration support of USD 12, with no change following a complaint to the joint help desk, while another household reported exclusion from a supplementary distribution despite prior enlistment.

Further reports indicated confiscation or delayed restoration of Data Cards for some refugees returning from Bhasan Char, limiting access to humanitarian assistance and civil documentation processes, alongside broader delays in marriage registration more generally. Across sectors, persons with disabilities, particularly those with vision or hearing impairments, reported barriers to service access, information and participation. In camps 24 and 26, long distances, steep terrain, damaged pathways and inaccessible infrastructure limited access to health facilities, learning centres and

¹² The World Food Programme (WFP) initiated a Targeting and Prioritization Exercise (TPE) in all 33 camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya and in Bhasan Char, in April 2026 shifting from blanket aid to targeted support based on household-level vulnerabilities.

food distribution points for persons with disabilities, older persons, children with disabilities and female-headed households. Inadequate lighting also reportedly restricted safe night-time movement to services, while appropriate service arrangements for gender-diverse persons remained limited.

The discontinuation of specialized programming was also reported. Livelihood and skills development opportunities had narrowed, including the continued closure of a skills learning centre damaged by fire and still not functioning in this reporting period. In camp 24, community members reported that the discontinuation of a child protection project and literacy, numeracy and home-based learning activities was heightening concerns about child labour, child marriage and school dropout.



RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government of Bangladesh:

- **Consider strengthening supervised and documented APBn patrols**, particularly during nighttime hours, in areas where recruitment, abduction, extortion, and the presence of arms have been reported. Camp authorities, including CiCs and APBn, are **encouraged to review and follow up on reports of recruitment-related activities** and to ensure that discussions, meetings, or gatherings concerning Myanmar are conducted in a manner that fully respects the voluntary nature of return. Given current circumstances, it remains important that refugees are able to make free and informed decisions regarding return, without undue influence or pressure.
- Further strengthen measures, through camp authorities and law enforcement agencies, **to prevent and respond to recruitment-related activities, particularly those affecting children**. In collaboration with relevant ministries and specialized agencies, **efforts should continue to address grave violations against children**, including recruitment and use, abduction, sexual violence, killing and injuring, and ensure that child protection considerations remain central to all prevention and response measures.
- **Strengthen access to formal justice mechanisms, and dispute resolution mechanisms for refugees**, including through timely follow-up on serious protection incidents in the camps. Efforts could further support access to assistance and remedies for affected individuals, contribute to the prevention of criminal activities, and promote a safe and secure camp environment. **Continued strengthening of oversight, complaints, and referral mechanisms**, in line with national frameworks, can further enhance transparency, public confidence, and effective law enforcement.
- **Continue efforts to strengthen respect for the rule of law** within the camps through protection-oriented approaches and sustained engagement by law enforcement authorities, in collaboration with camp governance and community leadership structures. This could include enhanced coordination between APBn and district police, **further investment in investigative capacities**, and the promotion of survivor-centred approaches to responding to protection concerns.

To the Government of Bangladesh jointly with protection partners:

- Encourage law enforcement authorities to, with the support and technical expertise of protection partners, strengthen protection-sensitive screening, identification, disarmament and separation procedures for armed elements, including through regular in-camp weapons searches and refraining from sending to the camps individuals returning from fighting in Myanmar, **to help safeguard the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum and the camps**. This could include the application of relevant provisions of the Arms Act to individuals found carrying weapons within the camps or arriving with arms, while ensuring due process, accountability, and safe reporting mechanisms for refugees to raise concerns or report potential abuses.
- **Further scale up and sustain critical child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services** by strengthening case management systems, expanding family- and caregiver-focused prevention and caregiver support initiatives, and promoting integrated, multi-sectoral approaches to address child labour, child marriage, and recruitment-related risks. Efforts should also seek to reinforce community-based protection in hotspot areas, enhance access through decentralized service delivery and strengthened referral pathways, and improve



monitoring, reporting, and accountability mechanisms to ensure timely, coordinated, and quality support for at-risk children and adolescents.

- **Strengthen protection and support mechanisms for youth and civil society structures** within the camps, including by fostering meaningful and inclusive civic engagement, promoting space for diverse perspectives, and ensuring that concerns or allegations relating to camp leadership or governance structures are addressed through appropriate, transparent, and independent review mechanisms.
- **Promote inclusive and representative community structures** that reflect the views and interests of the refugee community. Such structures should be supported to operate in a transparent, accountable, and independent manner, with clearly defined and context-appropriate Terms of References developed through consultation and in line with humanitarian principles and operational standards.
- In coordination with RRRC, seek the guidance and support of the relevant Ministries and the Forest Department, to **clarify land tenure arrangements**, including distinctions between private, public, and social forestry land in Ukhiya and Teknaf, with a view to addressing land-related concerns in a transparent and coordinated manner. **Continued efforts to strengthen coordination, oversight, and engagement with local stakeholders** may further help address informal practices and operational challenges affecting refugees and humanitarian activities.
- **Continue efforts to expand opportunities for livelihoods, skills development, and education for refugees** to help mitigate the impacts of funding constraints, strengthen resilience and self-reliance, and reduce protection risks. Increased access to learning and productive engagement can contribute to individual well-being, reduce reliance on humanitarian assistance, and support preparedness for future solutions, including eventual reintegration in Myanmar when conditions permit. Such opportunities can also foster positive community engagement, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence within refugee and host communities.

To the international community, donors, UN Member States, members of the Joint Response Plan, UN Country Team:

- **Increase investment in and support for prevention activities** that address underlying drivers such as harmful GBV norms, unsafe environments for children and adolescents, the expansion of informal economies, exploitation, disputes arising from economic hardship, onward movement, and negative coping mechanisms linked to reduced funding.
- Advocate for **access to safety and territory** in accordance with the principle of non-refoulement and **full registration of new arrivals** as well as their full access to individual documentation and all services, especially shelter.
- Continue advocacy efforts with government officials to ensure that **gender-based violence** services for women and girls—including those with disabilities—are dignified, **survivor-centred**, respectful of confidentiality, due process, and gender-sensitive involvement.
- Call on Member States and donors **to sustain assistance and responsibility-sharing efforts**, while intensifying support for meaningful progress in Myanmar. Protection remains one of the most underfunded sectors of the JRP, with an overall funding gap of approximately USD 39.2 million across Protection, Child Protection, and GBV. Further reductions in protection services risk will continue to exacerbate negative coping mechanisms and heightening protection risks for Rohingya refugees.

END