Child Protection
Cox's Bazar Child Protection Sub-Sector

Child Protection Sub-Sector Q3 2026

QUARTERLY BULLETIN · JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

33 REFUGEE CAMPS
BHASAN CHAR
HOST COMMUNITIES

Executive Summary


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Sustaining essential services. Despite heavy monsoon rains and a challenging operational situation, child protection partners kept essential services open and delivered clear gains for Rohingya children in Q3. Across the response, CPSS partners reached 138,502 children through 350 service delivery facilities, maintaining access to case management, psychosocial support, referrals and other essential child protection interventions. Structured psychosocial support reached 102% of its 2026 target, reflecting continued investment in children's mental health and psychosocial well-being. A further 305 community child protection committees were established in Q3, bringing the total to 2,062 since January and widening the circle of community members watching out for children. Child labour declined for the third consecutive quarter, and funding coverage improved in every programme area compared with Q2

Bhasan Char: steady service provision amidst emerging risks. A partnership of BRAC, UNHCR and UNICEF is keeping case management and community protection services running steadily, with new cases opened and existing cases closed at a consistent pace. However, the risk of child marriage is rising, with a growing number of children identified as at risk. Frequent staff turnover remains the main challenge, and the island is among the priority locations for additional case workers. Children and families on the island remained actively engaged in the multipurpose child and adolescent centres. Prevention and risk mitigation programs against GBV have been scaled up, and partners registered new cohorts of men engagement clubs and adolescent clubs. Community child protection committees continued to refer children at risk, and committee members, including women, were trained to identify and report protection concerns.

2027 JRP planning was completed. A total of nine partners were selected, involving 15 implementing agencies, under a collective child protection funding appeal of USD 27.3 million. Two additional partners, UNFPA and Educo, were identified under the complementary category. Progress was also made in strengthening protection systems and accountability. CPSS completed a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for child protection case management, with consultations and dissemination involving case management agencies, strengthening attention to the safe and responsible management of children's sensitive information.

In collaboration with the GBV Sub-Sector, CPSS finalised referral guidance for frontline workers covering alternative care, safe shelters and One-Stop Crisis Centres. In addition, 64 case workers and supervisors received training on Best Interests Determination referrals to strengthen referral practices and ensure more consistent, child-centred decision-making for children requiring specialised support.

Protection needs are increasing. Despite continued service delivery, the growing volume and complexity of child protection cases are placing increasing pressure on an already overstretched response system. Partners identified 5,842 new cases, 17% more than in Q2. Each case worker now carries an average of 49 open cases, twice the recommended standard. Reports of sexual violence rose by 51%, and 971 children were affected by serious child rights violations. Funding remains a challenge. The response is provisionally 55% funded, leaving a USD 10.1 million gap. Prevention (44% of target) and community-based protection (43%) lag furthest behind. Protecting existing case management capacity and mobilizing additional resources for prevention and community-based protection must therefore remain collective priorities.

JRP 2026 – PROGRESS against the 2026 annual targets, January–September

USD 22.5M FUNDING REQUIRED	**USD 10.1M** FUNDING GAP (as of Q3)	**18** IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS (Q3)	**350** FACILITIES	**1,430,279** PEOPLE IN NEED	**862,472** PEOPLE TARGETED
673,034 ROHINGYA REFUGEES TARGETED	**189,438** HOST COMMUNITY TARGETED	**102%** STRUCTURED PSS · % OF TARGET	**68%** CASE MANAGEMENT · % OF TARGET	**44%** PREVENTION · % OF TARGET	**43%** CBCPCS · % OF TARGET

Financial Requirements & Funding Status

Category	Required	Gap (as of Q2)	Gap (as of Q3)
Overall CP Requirements	USD 22.5M	USD 10.9M	**USD 10.1M**
Priority 1	USD 10.1M	USD 2.97M	**USD 2.6M**
Priority 1 + 2 (Combined)	USD 14.9M	USD 6M	**USD 5.4M**
Priority 3	USD 4.6M	USD 3.1M	**USD 3.0M**
Resilience and Solutions	USD 2.9M	USD 1.7M	**USD 1.7M**

Funding Coverage by Programme Area

Case Management — 72% Funded
USD 6.0M funded · Gap USD 2.3M

CP Situation & Rights Monitoring — 85% Funded
USD 346K funded · Gap USD 60K

CP Outreach Activities — 46% Funded
USD 1.5M funded · Gap USD 1.8M

Structured & Sustained Activities — 44% Funded
USD 4.0M funded · Gap USD 5.1M

Systems Strengthening & Capacity Building — 37% Funded

Coordination Updates

JRP 2027–2028 Planning

The Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS), in collaboration with the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) and the Protection Sector, completed the planning process for the 2027–2028 Joint Response Plan (JRP). A total of 21 partner proposals were submitted, of which nine projects were selected for the child protection response: UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas Bangladesh, World Vision International, BRAC and Terre des Hommes (TdH), involving 15 implementing agencies. Two additional partners, UNFPA and Educo, were identified under the complementary category. The total CPSS funding appeal stands at USD 27.3 million.


Session on DPIA findings with the supervisors and technical leads

Child Protection mid-year review/monthly coordination meetings

- During Q3, the Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) held three monthly coordination meetings, bringing together more than 20 partner agencies to discuss sector updates, programme priorities, reporting, and preparations for the JRP 2027–2028. A key focus of the July meeting was the discussion of mid-year review findings, which highlighted recurring challenges, including inconsistent programme guidelines and modules, misalignment between donor and JRP indicators, recruitment and funding delays, shortages of skilled female facilitators, and low participation of adolescent girls and parents. Partners agreed to use the JRP as the primary planning framework, harmonize technical guidelines and programme modules, contextualize and translate PSS, life skills and parenting materials, strengthen adolescent protection-skills sessions, and map technical expertise to establish a pool of trainers and resource persons.
- A workshop with Child Protection Focal Points (CPFPs) and Backup CPFPs was organized to discuss camp-level child protection updates, emerging risks, challenges, and response gaps. The session focused on clarifying roles and responsibilities, strengthening data protection, referral and reporting mechanisms, addressing missing children trends, and improving documentation and coordination. A new reporting tool has been introduced to systematically capture and track the contributions and activities of Child Protection Focal Points on a monthly basis.

Capacity Building Initiatives

- Partners trained 4,824 staff, volunteers, community members and government officials during Q3 (5W). UNHCR organised a Best Interests Determination (BID) refresher for 16 panel members from DSS, UNICEF, CODEC, Plan International, TdH, BRAC and AAB on 11 August, followed by training for 64 case workers and supervisors on BID referrals on 12 August and 21 September.
- A PSEA workshop on 15 September identified risks of sexual exploitation and abuse in child protection programmes and agreed an action plan. On Bhasan Char, BRAC trained 44 CBCPC members.
- Two dedicated workshops were organised on 3 and 4 August for case workers and supervisors to address the practical challenges and complexities of managing cases of Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (CAAFAG). The sessions gave frontline practitioners space to discuss difficult cases, share experiences, strengthen their understanding of how to support affected children, and learn the new CAAFAG reporting tool. Recognising the stress of working with children affected by recruitment and use by armed groups, the workshops also highlighted case workers' own well-being as essential to effective and sustained case management support.

Child Protection and GBV integration

In collaboration with the GBV Sub-Sector, CPSS finalized a referral guideline for frontline staff on alternative care, safe shelters and One-Stop Crisis Centers. An orientation for both case management technical working groups is set for 29 October, after which the revised CP–GBV programmatic integration guideline will be finalized and shared with partners.

CPSS also worked with the Anti-Trafficking Working Group, the PSEA Network and the MHPSS Working Group, and contributed child protection findings to the Q3 Joint Protection Monitoring Report.

Data Protection Impact Assessment and IM Products

CPSS completed a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) involving all child protection case management agencies. The findings were shared with the Case Management Technical Working Group and field staff during sessions on 16–17 September, together with the revised data protection and information-sharing protocol, to strengthen the safe and responsible management of sensitive case information.

CPSS also completed its facility mapping, published the Q2 bulletin and trained Bhasan Char IM staff on 5W reporting.


CAAFAG Session with the Case workers


Session on DPIA findings with the Case workers

Challenges & Constraints

Case workers stretched

Case overload has become one of the main challenges affecting the quality of child protection services. By 30 September, each case worker was carrying 49 open cases on average, twice the recommended standard of 25 cases per caseworker. Over the past year, open cases grew by 25% while the case management workforce grew by only 12%, and case closures fell by about a quarter, so cases are accumulating faster than they can be resolved. The pressure is greatest in Camp 15, Bhasan Char, Camp 4 and Camp 1W. Overstretched case workers have less time for home visits, follow-up and case conferences while facing a growing risk of burnout.

Referrals and help-seeking behavior

Fear and unequal power dynamics are major barriers to referrals and help-seeking. With 39% of key informants naming community leaders among perpetrators of sexual violence against children, those expected to protect children can become a source of risk. Fear of retaliation and stigma discourages disclosure, leaving sexual violence, trafficking and armed group recruitment widely under-reported; only a quarter of key informants were willing to discuss armed groups.

Safety and access

Insecurity in the camps continued to expose children to serious harm. Armed group activity, abductions and night-time insecurity heightened their vulnerability, with risks peaking when agency staff were not present; children described child marriages being deliberately held on Fridays and Saturdays for this reason. Camp 4 recorded an 18% rise in grave violations against children compared with Q2. Heavy rains in July compounded these risks, damaging pathways and closing centres in affected camps, temporarily cutting children off from safe spaces and support.

Hyper-prioritisation: prevention left behind

With the response only 55% funded, hyper-prioritisation has left prevention (44%) and community-based protection (43%) furthest from target. Without sustained investment in prevention and community-based protection, fewer risks will be identified and addressed early, potentially resulting in more children requiring specialised case management and other intensive protection services. This would place additional pressure on an already overstretched case management system, further widening the gap between children's protection needs and the capacity of partners to respond.

Case Management

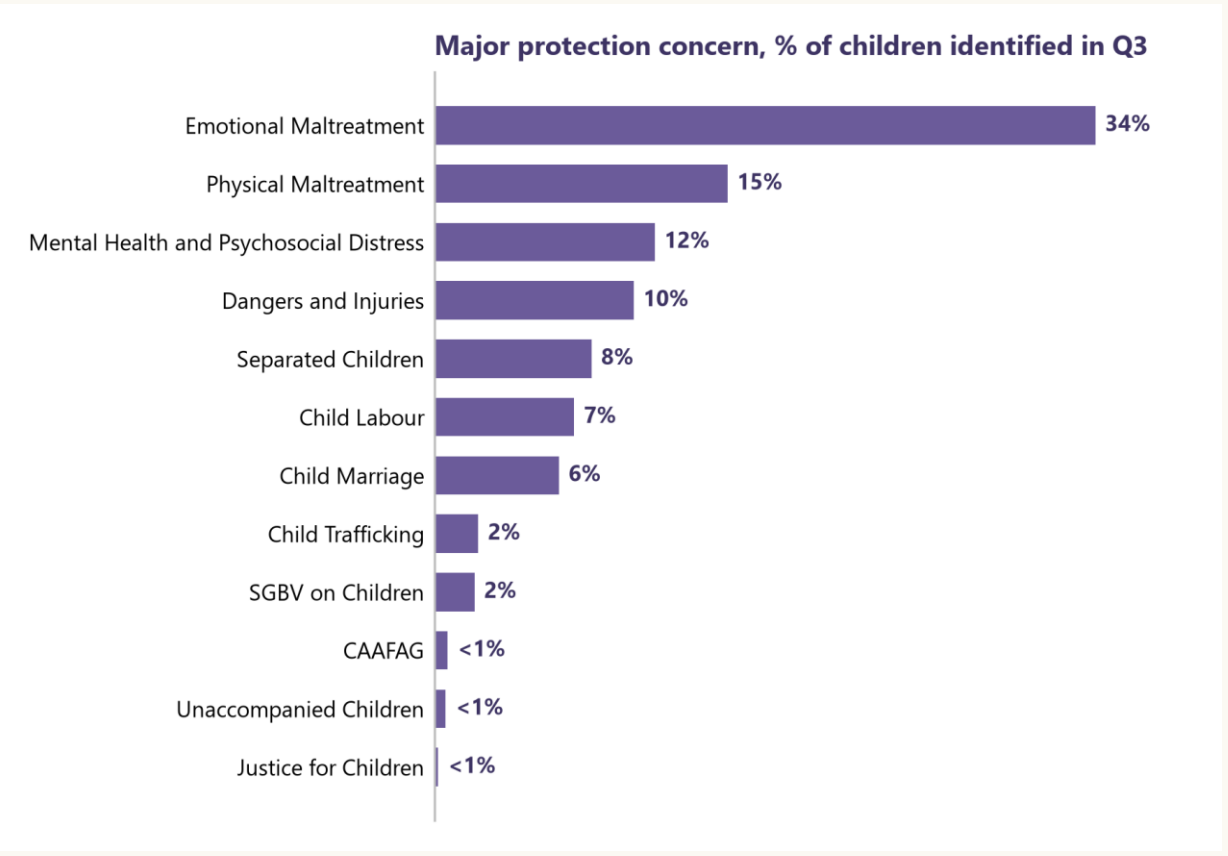
Twelve agencies manage child protection cases through CPIMS+, coordinated by the Child Protection Case Management Technical Working Group.

5,842
NEW CASES IN Q3

4,255
CASES CLOSED IN Q3

13,396
OPEN CASES ON 30 SEP

High priority – 7% of all cases are high priority (current level), against 30% of SGBV cases, 21% of trafficking cases and 16% of child marriage cases.
Girls are 50% of new cases.
Children aged 7–14 years are 58% of new cases, and 12% of children have a disability.



Each child counted once, by the first concern recorded (base 5,790 children).

CP CASE TRENDS

Twelve agencies continued to provide child protection case management services through CPIMS+, coordinated by the Case Management Technical Working Group. The rising number of open cases reflects growing pressure on an already overstretched case management system. Case workers are currently managing an average of 49 open cases each – twice the recommended caseload standard. This raises concerns about their ability to ensure timely assessments, regular follow-up, individualized case planning and quality service delivery.

Increasing Complexity and Under-Reported Risks-

Multiple forms of violence: 65% of children experienced more than one form of violence, requiring more comprehensive case plans, multiple referrals and sustained follow-up.

Under-reporting of serious violations: Sexual violence, trafficking and CAAFAG represent relatively small proportions of recorded primary concerns. However, these figures should be interpreted cautiously given persistent barriers to disclosure, stigma, fear of retaliation and the influence of armed groups. Notably, reported sexual violence cases increased by 51% compared with Q2.

Household drivers: Economic hardship, reduced assistance and household stress continue to undermine caregivers' protective capacities, contributing to neglect and other protection risks.

Implications for the Response

Overall, the increasing volume and complexity of cases, combined with high caseloads and limited response capacity, underscore the need to strengthen case management resources, supervision, referral pathways and specialised services to ensure that children receive timely, appropriate and quality support.

CHILDREN AND ARMED GROUPS · CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING, Q3

971
TOTAL CHILDREN AFFECTED BY GRAVE VIOLATIONS

276
CHILDREN ABDUCTED OR KIDNAPPED

187
RECRUITED OR USED · 97% BOYS

188
INJURED BY ARMED GROUPS

794 incidents, up 12% on Q2; incidents affecting girls up 24%. Source: CRMM, as in the Q3 Joint Protection Monitoring Report.

Structured & Sustained Activities, including Psychosocial Support

In Q3, partners reached 138,502 children (69,465 girls, 69,037 boys) and 96,329 adults, 3,444 of them with a disability, through 148 MPCs, 80 CFSs and 79 adolescent and gender-specific hubs in Cox's Bazar and host communities, and 21 facilities on Bhasan Char. Reached is a sum of monthly reports. Some good practices **are:**

- Shared referral pathways between MPC/CFS staff and case workers, so concerns seen in PSS sessions reach case management quickly.
- Skills sessions for older adolescents, linking PSS to longer-term livelihoods in a protracted crisis.
- Accessible facilities and trained staff, so children with disabilities keep attending.

"When we feel sad and miss our land, when we feel that we are vulnerable and alone, we go to the MPC." - girls aged 10–14, Camp 13 (CPSM focus group)



Play, crafts and friends at a multipurpose centre, Bhasan Char (BRAC)

Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP)

Community-Based Child Protection Committees are the community's own early-warning and referral network. Members spot children at risk, share safety messages and refer children to case workers, as in Tahera's story on page 5, where a CBCPC member's tip brought a trafficked girl home.

2,062 CBCPCS ESTABLISHED (JAN–SEP)

1,097 CHILDREN IDENTIFIED & REFERRED BY CBCPCS

305 NEW CBCPCS ESTABLISHED IN Q3

Good practice in community-based protection

Community-led identification and referral: CBCPC members are the first contact for children at risk, so concerns are caught before they become high priority.

Early warning built into CBCPC roles: the same committees monitor protection risks and respond in monsoon and cyclone emergencies.

CP Situation & Rights Monitoring

Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) tracks risks to children through monthly key informant interviews with caregivers, adolescents, CBCPC members, community and religious leaders and volunteers, and through focus groups with children. In Q3, partners held 578 interviews in 42 locations (417 in camps, 161 in host communities); 46% of respondents were women or girls. Across January–September, 1,602 interviews in 44 locations and 43 focus groups with 422 children show a consistent picture: child labour, neglect and distress were each reported in more than half of interviews and child marriage in more than a quarter, and every risk was reported more often in camps than in host communities. Shares show how widely a risk is seen, not how many children are affected.

Child labour: the most widely reported risk

61.7% of interviews reported children working (66% in camps, 41% in host communities), and 88% named poverty as a cause. Boys carry gas cylinders and loads, work in tea stalls, drive tomtoms and fish; girls do paid domestic work and childcare in other shelters, often out of sight. Children add reasons adults rarely mention: beatings at school or madrasa, peer pressure, saving for dowry and paying for mobile gambling. They describe heat illness in the salt fields, road accidents, sexual abuse at work and kidnapping on the way to work.

Child marriage rose every month in Q3

23% → 36% of interviews reported child marriage between July and September, three times more often in camps than in host communities. Case workers handled 409 child marriage cases, 89% involving girls, mostly under 15. Poverty, family honour, elopement and dowry drive it; children also describe brokers promising grooms in Malaysia, armed gangs forcing girls to marry, and weddings held when agency staff are away.

"Most of the time it happens on Friday to Saturday, because most of the representatives of agencies do not come to camp." - girls aged 10–14, Camp 13

Neglect and violence at home

57.2% of interviews reported neglect and 38.9% domestic violence affecting children (66% and 48% in camps). Key informants link it to poverty, unemployment, caregiver stress, substance use and family conflict; children point to polygamy, step-parents, fathers' online gambling and beatings by parents and teachers. Self-harm is an emerging concern: in camps, 23% of interviews reporting domestic violence named it among the effects.

"Children get scared when they see adults fighting, and we just want our homes to be peaceful and safe." - boys aged 10–14, Teknaf Pourashava

Distress among children and caregivers

53% of interviews reported children with behavioural or psychological problems (64% in camps, 26% in host communities), and 55.5% reported caregivers unable to care for their children. Children link their sadness to memories of Myanmar, family separation, scolding, closed learning centres and fear during heavy rain. In 39 of 43 focus groups, children said they go to a CFS, MPC or adolescent club when they feel sad.

"Before, I had no place where I could go to feel better; now going to the MPCAC makes me feel better." - boy aged 10–14, Camp 22

Sexual violence: rising and under-reported

51% increase in reports of sexual violence against children compared with Q2, and 201 new SGBV cases among children in case management, 83% of them girls. Key informants most often named people close to the child (75%) and neighbours (56%); in camps, 61% also named armed groups. Children raised it unprompted: abuse of working children, harassment of girls on the way to centres, and eve-teasing as a reason girls are kept at home or married early. More than a third of key informants answered "don't know", so the true level is likely higher.

Armed groups, abduction and trafficking

12 of 38 focus groups described children kidnapped for ransom, and 23 of 38 had heard of children drawn into armed or criminal groups for money, power or status. Reports of children engaged with armed groups rose from 7.6% to 8.8% of interviews, and of children at risk of recruitment from 8.4% to 9.5%, all in camps; children described boat journeys to Malaysia that end in abduction and ransom.

"Nobody should neglect or mistreat the child; everyone should give respect and support." - boys in Camp 22, on children returning from armed groups

RIGHTS MONITORING (CRMM), Q3

Grave violations against children rose by 12% on Q2: 794 incidents affected 971 children (262 girls, 619 boys), and incidents affecting girls rose by 24%; 48% were verified. Abduction or kidnapping was the most reported violation, followed by recruitment and use, almost all of boys, and injuries by armed groups. Attacks on and use of learning centres, schools and health facilities rose from 1 to 5 incidents, and Camp 4 recorded an 18% rise.

WHAT CHILDREN ASKED FOR

- Awareness sessions for parents on child rights, child marriage and services
- More, larger and closer centres, and open space to play
- Girls-only spaces and more female staff
- Skills training such as sewing, IT and languages
- Welcome, counselling and a way back to school for children returning from armed groups

Bhasan Char: CP Response Update

Bhasan Char is home to about 30,400 Rohingya refugees in 120 cluster blocks, including about 14,000 children. Child protection partners deliver services through 14 multipurpose child and adolescent centres, adolescent clubs and community-based child protection committees. The island holds 5.2% of all open child protection cases in the response.

Between July and September, child protection partners reached 255 children with case management, 3,004 children and adults with prevention and awareness activities, and 92 children with structured psychosocial support, and trained 107 community members and volunteers (5W). Bhasan Char is one of four priority locations for more case workers (CPIMS+).

Through its multipurpose centres and adolescent clubs, BRAC, with UNICEF support, took on 68 new cases and closed 66 between July and 20 August. BRAC also graduated 70 parents from Positive Parenting, started Girl Shine with 60 girls and their caregivers and life skills education with 75 boys, and trained 44 CBCPC members to spot and report risks. Frequent staff turnover remains the main challenge.

30,400
Refugees
~14,000 children

5,038
Reached, Q3
BRAC · UNHCR · UNICEF

190
ACTIVE CASES

SECTION · PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS



Children speak up on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (CODEC)

CODEC - CHILD TRAFFICKING

She Escaped Traffickers. Her Community Brought Her Home.

For five months, Tahera's* mother did not know where her daughter was. Tahera was 12 when her parents separated in Camp 9. Her father took her away "for a visit" and, with the help of a relative, handed her to suspected traffickers. On the way to another location, frightened and alone, she escaped from the vehicle and ran to a woman in the Hakim Para host community, who took her in. Back in the camp, her mother and relatives kept searching.

Found. The breakthrough came from a CBCPC member, who shared information with CODEC's child protection team. Case workers checked it with the Camp Majhi and Tahera's mother and confirmed that the girl living with the host family was the missing child.

Home. CODEC coordinated with the relevant service providers, including the Camp-in-Charge, to bring Tahera safely back from the host community and reunite her with her mother.

Safe to stay. CODEC's support continued until the risks were gone: a safety assessment, one-to-one psychosocial support to help her cope with what she had been through, a medical check at the IOM health post, sessions with her family on keeping her safe, and a referral to BLAST for legal help with the family's abduction complaint.

Today, Tahera is physically and emotionally stable. She goes to school regularly and joins in learning and play with other children. **Her case is now assessed as no risk.**

**Name changed to protect the child's identity.*

SAVE THE CHILDREN - CHILD LABOUR

From Child Labourer to Child Rights Champion

Hasim* dreamed of becoming a teacher. Then the pressure to earn began. He lives in Camp 11 with his parents and five siblings, a family of eight getting by on very little. Friends who were already working persuaded him to leave his learning centre and start earning, both for his own needs and to help at home. His parents believed his wages would ease the family's hardship, so neither Hasim nor his family wanted him to go back to class. With every day he spent working, his dream slipped a little further away.

Save the Children's child protection team did not give up on him. Working with the Community-Based Child Protection Committee, community volunteers and Hasim's teacher, they visited the family again and again. They talked with his parents about the harm child labour can do, about children's rights, and about what education could mean for Hasim's future.

Support went beyond those visits. His mother joined Positive Parenting sessions, and Hasim joined the Adolescent Club. Through life skills sessions, protective behaviour training, child rights discussions, drama and cultural activities, he learned new things, grew in confidence and found friends his own age.

Little by little, encouraged by the people around him, Hasim found his way back to learning. On 10 May 2026, he re-enrolled at a CODEC-run learning centre. Today he is an active member of the Adolescent Club: he helps organise activities, joins community awareness sessions and urges other children to stay in school rather than go to work. His mother now sees education as the key to her son's future.

**Name changed to protect the child. Supported by the AHP/DFAT programme.*



Illustrative photo; the child pictured is not Hasim. © UNICEF/Mumit M

"I realized that education could help me achieve my dream of becoming a teacher. Now I encourage my friends to continue their education and never leave school for child labor."

- Hasim (name changed), back in class

HOW HASIM GOT BACK TO LEARNING

1 Family visits
The CP team, CBCPC, volunteers and his teacher visited again and again.

2 Support for his mother
She joined Positive Parenting sessions.

3 A place to belong
Life skills, child rights, drama and friends at the Adolescent Club.

4 Back to class
Re-enrolled at a CODEC-run learning centre on 10 May 2026.



"Girl Shine helped me find my inner strength. I now believe I can lead and I can solve my own problems. I love to go to school now."

- Hosnema, 12

BRAC - GIRL SHINE

Hosnema Found Her Strength

At 12, Hosnema* had stopped going to school. Conflict at home had worn down her confidence. She pulled away from friends and social activities, kept to herself, and had little say in decisions about her own life. BRAC staff identified her as one of the most vulnerable girls in Camp 1E.

She was enrolled in Girl Shine at BRAC's Tia Multi-Purpose Centre, a safe space just for girls. Over 22 structured sessions, she and other girls explored adolescent development, self-confidence, leadership, communication and problem solving, learning to speak up and to trust their own ideas.

By the time she finished, the change was clear for everyone to see.

BEFORE GIRL SHINE

- Had dropped out of school
- Kept away from friends and social activities
- Lacked confidence and leadership skills
- Had little say in decisions at home

AFTER 22 SESSIONS

- A regular student who arrives on time
- A leader among her peers and in her community
- Solves family problems through calm, positive communication
- Helps her mother make decisions

Today Hosnema is not just a participant but a role model for other adolescent girls in her community: proof that with the right guidance and a safe space, girls can shine.

**Name changed to protect the child.*

SECTION · PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

UNHCR - BEST INTERESTS DETERMINATION

Decisions That Put Children First

By the end of September 2026, UNHCR had convened eight Best Interests Determination (BID) panels, including two ad hoc panels, to decide what is best for children facing major decisions about their care and future. Of **144 children** presented (79 girls, 65 boys), decisions were approved for **137** (75 girls, 62 boys). Regular panel reviews and close coordination with partners keep every decision timely, well informed and centred on the child.

TERRE DES HOMMES (Tdh) - ONLINE GAMBLING

Rahim Logged Off: Beating Online Gambling at 14

Online gambling ads are reaching adolescents in the camps through mobile phones. Rahim*, 14, started playing on his father's phone out of curiosity. Soon he was taking money from the family's small betel leaf shop, losing it, and getting angry. He argued with his parents and spent hours alone on the phone.

The Camp Protection Focal Point referred him to a Tdh case worker on a UNICEF-funded project, who worked with Rahim and his family and linked him to the Orchid Multi-Purpose Centre. There, PSS and life skills sessions taught him to stop and think before acting, handle his feelings and talk things through.

Rahim chose to stop gambling. He no longer takes money from the shop, spends his free time at the MPC with friends, and his parents say home is calmer. Tdh also shared the trend with CBCPCs, who now urge parents to guide and keep an eye on their children's phone use.

**Name changed to protect the child's identity.*

NEW RISK ON THE RADAR

Online gambling

Phone ads pull some adolescents in. Warning signs: hours alone on the phone, missing money and anger at home.

WHAT HELPED

- Case management involving the whole family
- Life skills and play at the MPC
- CBCPCs' active engagement with the parents

Worried about a child? Talk to a CP case worker or a CBCPC member.



Photo: BITA / Plan International Bangladesh. Rashedul with friends at the CFS.

BITA & PLAN INTERNATIONAL - DISABILITY INCLUSION

Rashedul's* Favourite Place

In one of the hilly camps, crisscrossed by canals, children face daily safety risks. After learning centre sessions end, many spend their time playing along roadsides or in the water, where accidents and drowning are real dangers. Rashedul, 8, has visual and intellectual disabilities. He used to spend his days alone by the roadside, often teased by other children, while his parents worried whenever he left home.

When a neighbor told his mother, about the new Child-Friendly Space (CFS), run by BITA with Plan International and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, she enrolled him. Facilitators welcomed him through games, drawing and group activities, while encouraging all children to include everyone.

Today, Rashedul has friends, participates confidently and attends the CFS every day. He particularly enjoys building blocks and ball games.

"He does not want to play outside anymore," says a facilitator.

**Name changed to protect the child's identity.*

"The CFS has become the safest and happiest place for him." - Rashedul's mother

Around the Camps



SAVE THE CHILDREN · BTS

Fast-tracked referrals of lost children

A four-year-old girl was found alone and crying in the camp. Members of the Lotus Adolescent Club took her to a Women and Girls Safe Space for clothes and comfort. Majhis, CBCPC members and volunteers actively work across the blocks, and her parents were found that same day.



BRAC · CODEC

Child Protection Awareness

Under the theme "Trapped Behind the Scam", BRAC marked World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July) in 30 child protection facilities across 11 camps, with rallies, "safe or unsafe?" games and drawing. CODEC held sessions too, on World Drowning Prevention Day on 25 July.



BRAC

Game On enhancing Safety

Five child protection public events drew 2,036 people, including 60 people with disabilities, with sport, drama and bioscope shows. A giant child protection snakes-and-ladders game made safety messages stick. The Camp-in-Charge of camp 3 have joined the prize-giving.



SAVE THE CHILDREN · BTS

Start the Conversation: suicide prevention

On World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September), 28 adolescents at the Moon Light centre talked about stress, loneliness and how to help a friend, and 22 girls staged a drama on breaking the silence. The message: listen without judging and help friends find support.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I feel happier and more comfortable now. I feel that my family understands my needs better."
Gulas, 10, supported through case management after his father died · BRAC

"Now I encourage my friends to stay in school and never leave for child labour."
Hasim (name changed), back in class after child labour · Save the Children

"The parenting sessions helped us realize that blaming and scolding were not helpful."
Parents of a 17-year-old mother who was married as a child · BRAC

CONTACT US

Lillian Kona · CPSS Coordinator, UNICEF · lkona@unicef.org
Taslima Begum · Programme Officer – CPSS coordination, UNICEF · tbegum@unicef.org
Anas Ismail · CPSS IM, UNICEF · anismail@unicef.org