

IOM BANGLADESH INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN COX'S BAZAR



As the world observes the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (GBV), taking place from 25 November to 10 December, IOM Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to step up efforts against GBV in both Rohingya and Bangladeshi host communities.

At present, nearly one million Rohingya refugees are living in congested displacement camps; 52 per cent are women and girls. Tackling GBV has become increasingly more complex against a backdrop of a deteriorating protection environment for Rohingya refugees overall. Difficult living conditions within camps, restricted livelihood and educational opportunities, limited resources including food rations, and a lack of freedom of movement - particularly for women and girls - have created conditions that exacerbate the risks for GBV, including those related to intimate partner violence, child marriage, and human trafficking. Individuals with diverse gender expressions and identities and sexual orientations are also at higher risk from GBV in these camps.

IOM's longstanding commitment to responding to gender-based violence is reflected in its specialized GBV programming, which focuses on risk mitigation, survivor support, and addressing root causes. Our nine Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) play a crucial role, offering counseling, psychosocial support, education, and life skills in a survivor-centered environment. In 2022, IOM published the [Establishing Women and Girls Safe Spaces in the Rohingya Refugee Response: a Guidance Note and Best Practice from Cox's Bazar](#) to share best practices and ensure shared learning for similar initiatives.

IOM Bangladesh prioritizes interventions which address the root causes of gender-based violence. Recognizing that gender inequality and unequal power relations needs to be addressed at all levels, IOM implements the Engaging Men Through Accountable Practice (EMAP) programme. EMAP is an innovative evidence-based primary prevention model for engaging men and support transformative individual behavior change.

In the face of persistent gender-based violence, IOM Bangladesh remains unwavering in its commitment to fostering a safer environment for both Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi individuals in host communities. Together, let's invest in a future free from gender-based violence, echoing the global theme of "UNiTE! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls."

Join us to [16 Days of Activism Against Gender based Violence](#)

Watch [IOM Bangladesh's works to #EndViolenceAgainstWomen](#)

969,719

Rohingya population in Bangladesh

201,778

Rohingya families

938,280

Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar

31,439

Rohingya population in Bhasan Char

1.4 million

People in need

Read IOM Appeal 2023 [here](#).

Watch IOM Bangladesh Rohingya Crisis Response [here](#).

PROGRAMME UPDATE

SITE MANAGEMENT AND SITE DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

13,538

complaints/feedback received; 9,183 referred; 12,976 replied; 4,703 considered resolved

11

drills on cyclone, monsoon preparedness, and fire safety conducted through DMU volunteers

2,166

different community engagement and participation activities conducted

3,456

women representatives attended 376 awareness sessions

138

Women Committee members participated in consultation meetings

156

radio listening sessions conducted

11,915 m²

of slope stabilized

22,314 m

of drainage cleared

5,791 m

of access ways constructed/repaired

2,885 m

of drainage installed/repared



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS



4,579

families received Shelter Upgrade and Maintenance (SUM) assistance

83,387

LPG refills provided

2,012

extremely vulnerable individuals received Porter support during the LPG distribution

142

families received gas stoves

124

LPG full kits, including cylinder, stove, regulator, hose, and training provided to the refugee households

21,100

Borak bamboo poles treated

HEALTH

122,724

primary medical consultations in IOM-supported facilities

141,407

door-to-door visits held as part of risk communication for infectious diseases

12,413

individuals benefited from MHPSS community-based activities

1,299

individuals received HIV counselling and testing

1,729

diagnostic tests for dengue

1,409

children received vaccination

2,657

individuals received MHPSS focused services

1,138

deliveries conducted in IOM-supported facilities





WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

256,817

people are receiving continued life-saving WASH support

112

WASH facilities rebuilt/upgraded in camp 11

3

Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems constructed

402,538

soap bars distributed

10,017 kgs

of compost produced from the Solid Waste generated

10,021 kgs

of compost distributed to the beneficiaries for farming

PROTECTION

18,373

beneficiaries reached with protection, child protection and GBV awareness messaging

13,073

individuals supported through GBV case management and psychosocial support

13,572

persons sensitized to counter-trafficking

467

Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) and non-EVIs were referred for further specialized services

59

victims of trafficking identified and directly assisted

1,162

children received psychological support

SOCIAL COHESION

415

Rohingya beneficiaries received different skills development training

92

host community individuals received livelihoods skills development training

102

host community individuals received in-kind support for livelihoods



NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING

Common Feedback Platform report for the month of October 2023 published

'Camp 11 Fire Incident: Post Distribution Monitoring Report' published

'Camp 11 Fire Incident: Situational Assessment Round-2' published

19 Incident daily and weekly reports and **19** dataset shared

15,067 shelters tagged with Shelter Address Labels

Solar Light Monitoring Dashboard developed in all 33 camps

'Daily incident online dashboard and dataset' is being updated daily

Funding for IOM response is provided by



Canada



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Innovation Norway



Sweden Sverige



United Nations CERF



THE WORLD BANK IBRD - IDA