



74,194

Total Unique Clients



67,253

Rohingya Refugee



6,941

Host Community Member



38,447

Female



35,747

Male

The IRC's Child Protection program

ensures a multi-sectoral response to children, adolescents, and their caregivers in Rohingya refugee camps and impacted host communities in Cox's Bazar. Currently, the program is operating in Camps 1E, 1W, 6, 8E, 25, and host communities in Ramu, Chakaria, Ukiya, Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district, and Patuakhali in Southern Bangladesh.

IRC's child protection program is largely led by the national partners, where IRC provides technical and handholding support in the following interventions:

- **Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (implementing SEL and SAFE)**
- **Inclusive CP case management services for children who experienced harm or at risk of harm (UASC, survivors of SGBV, and other children)**
- **Positive parenting (including rolling out positive parenting module with CP SS)**
- **Establishing/strengthening community-based child protection committees**
- **Strengthening child protection system to deliver child protection interventions**
- **Skill development program for adolescents (10-24 years)**

IRC in Bangladesh

IRC has been delivering life-saving child protection program in Bangladesh since 2017, leveraging its globally renowned protection expertise to respond to the acute protection concerns faced by Rohingya children and children in the host community. IRC is considered an essential provider of quality child protection services and IRC's globally renowned interventions described below promote systemic transformation to reduce child protection concerns. The importance of IRC's interventions is demonstrated through our place on the JRP funding list across all protection disciplines. IRC is an active member in the Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) and Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), is leading the CP and GBV Case Management Task Team, co-chairs the PSEA network, and is a member of national child protection cluster. IRC child protection partners have solid experience, reputations and on ground presence to reach the most affected and marginalized communities in the refugee camps and impacted host community.

Country Context

Bangladesh is hosting over 961,175 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar District and 30,050 refugees in Bhasan Char Island. The Rohingyas who fled systematic discrimination, severe rights violations, and extreme violence in Myanmar in 2017 now reside in overcrowded camps with a **lack of basic rights, livelihoods, and services**, while facing persistent and specific protection needs. The Rohingya refugee crisis, now in its sixth year, is an ongoing challenge with no immediate or long-term solution in sight for the refugees. Meanwhile, social tensions exist with an estimated 2.6 million Bangladeshis living in very **poor conditions in the country**. The adverse impacts of climate change (including unprecedented cyclones and intensified annual floods) have become key drivers of humanitarian needs for refugees who **rely heavily on international aid and humanitarian assistance**. Girls and boys, make up to more than half (52%) of the Rohingya refugee population, are particularly vulnerable to **risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence** and have been disproportionately affected by the crisis due to physical, psychological, and social vulnerabilities. However, 846,326 Rohingya children are in need of humanitarian assistance. According to the Joint Response Plan 2023, 34% of households in camps and 51% households from host communities reported that **the needs of children in their communities are not being adequately met**.

Donors Funding the Program



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THE IRC SUPPORTED INTERVENTIONS

Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS)

A Safe Healing and Learning Space (SHLS) is a secure, caring, and predictable place where children and adolescents living in conflict, crisis and emergence settings can learn, develop, and be protected. The IRC Bangladesh in partnership with local partners contextualized SHLS approach which is currently being implemented in 5 camps (1E, 1W, 6, 8E, and 25).

Parenting Skills development

Positive parenting intervention is one of the core components of IRC global approach SHLS, aims to promote the well-being of children and adolescents through improving parents' stress management skills, positive parenting practices, and strategies for supporting children and adolescents' psychosocial needs. It is focused on preventing violence against children in the homes and improving positive developmental outcomes for children in developing contexts and conflict settings, with a particular interest in investing in young children.

Strengthening community-based child protection structures

Community-based child protection committees (CBCPC) is drawn from local structures and traditional or informal processes, and they promote the wellbeing of children by championing the care and support for children in need and effectively coordinating access to services for vulnerable children (e.g., unaccompanied & separated children, survivors of GBV, other children at risk). The CBCPC is trained in the CPIE, GBV, GP, PSEA, AGD approach, CBCPCs conduct protection risk analysis to identify protection risks, conduct timely referrals mechanism and protect their community from further harm and risk. Case workers closely collaborate with community-based protection members on child protection especially case management, the identification of child protection cases, and referrals.

Fostering children's resilience and wellbeing

Adolescents aged 15 to 24 are supported with **Learn to Lead (L2L)** a structured global curriculum that support building resilience and civic engagement, particularly on issues related to leadership, social cohesion, advocacy, conflict resolution and peace building. The contextualized L2L curriculum has three chapters, thirty-three activities and encompasses 16 sessions. *The recent transition has seen L2E moved to ERD where interested adolescents and youths are enrolled in **Learn to Earn (L2E)** sessions to equip them with transferable business skills. The contextualized L2E curriculum has three chapters, eight units and it is also accumulated in 16 Sessions.*

Social-emotional learning (SEL)

Children aged 6-11 years are provided with age specific structured PSS through Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), SEL is nine months curriculum (108 sessions) delivered in SHLS through trained facilitators (separate sessions for boys and girls) to help children cope with and heal from trauma; and participate in recreational activities to return to normalcy.

Comprehensive child protection case management services

Inclusive CP case management service considering age, gender, diversity, and disability provided for children at risk of child marriage, trafficking, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. IRC's case management systems targets UASC, survivors of SGBV and other children at risk. As a member of the case management technical working group of Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS), IRC follows the case management SOPs and CP-GBV SOPs, tools. The IRC has well trained and supervised case workers delivering timely cases management care and support. The targeted training focuses on child protection in emergencies, case management, PSS, and SGBV. particular interest in investing in young children.

Supporting Adolescents and their Families in Emergencies (SAFE)

SAFE is a protection and psychosocial support program model to strengthen the capacity of front-line actors so that adolescent girls and boys (ages 10-19) are safer, more supported, and equipped with positive coping strategies in emergence or crisis. This is a structured curriculum with 16 sessions (2x/week) to train boys and girls to increase their safety and participation, strengthen family and peer support, and equip them with positive coping strategies.