



May 2023

Program Brief

Child Protection



Achievements

Most Reported Concerns



*according to IRC's CPIMS+ data from July 2022 to March 2023

Our Program

The IRC's Child Protection & Youth Development program aims to achieve the strategic goal - **Children and adolescents in Rohingya Refugee Camps and Host Communities are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm.** To achieve this goal in 2022, IRC ensured a multi-sectoral response to children, young people, and their caregivers in both refugee and host communities.

Our Models & Approaches

Our approach to child protection and youth development is rooted in three core beliefs: 1) girls and boys are entitled to grow up in a violence free environment that upholds their rights and supports the achievements of their full potential, 2) girls and boys should be active participants in their protection and development, 3) families, communities, and governments play fundamental roles in caring, supporting, and protecting children. Adhering to these three beliefs, our approaches to child protection and youth development are:

- 1. Safe Healing and Learning Space (SHLS)** approach provides psychosocial support through social and emotional learning interventions and positive parenting skills.
- 2. Supporting Adolescents and their Families in Emergencies (SAFE)** curriculum creates space for adolescent girls and boys to be safer, more supported, and equipped with positive coping strategies during crises.
- 3. Learn to Lead (L2L)** supports the young people aged between 15 to 35 with a structured curriculum that support building resilience and civic engagement, particularly on issues related to leadership, social cohesion, advocacy, conflict resolution, and peace building.
- 4. Learn to Earn (L2E)** works with the young people to develop business strategy and increase life skills capacity of youths and equip them with package materials. *In the recent transition, L2E is moved to the Economic Recovery and Development.*
- 5. Case Management** is a responsive approach that helps individual child and their families through direct support and information management following the inter-agency guidelines.

- Developed life skills of **400** adolescents, disaggregated as 200 each for camp and host community, who have completed the Learn to Earn curriculum and enrolled in the skills development program for the adolescents in marketable trades of their choice.
- Mitigated child protection risks through **1,116** case management. 16 experienced case workers provided support to the most vulnerable children who were exposed to exploitation, abuse, violence, neglect, and other child protection concerns.
- Raised awareness among **26,969** clients through awareness-raising sessions on child protection. 8 Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPC) were established as a part of system strengthening.
- Developed leadership skills among **1,200** young women and men. They received comprehensive knowledge on social cohesion, conflict resolution, and peace building. Established 16 Youth Development Centers (YDC) at the community level. Identified 1,050 adolescents in the Rohingya refugee camp, and 1,750 adolescents in the host community who will attend the skills development sessions.
- Developed positive coping strategies among **1,686** girls and boys under the SAFE curriculum - among them 1,398 girls and boys completed 75% of the curriculum. 1,255 girls and boys registered in SHLS, and 70% completed the cycle. 800 caregivers registered for developing good parenting skills, and 80% completed their curriculum cycle.

Data Source: MEAL | October 2021 - September 2022.

Context

Currently, 1.1 million Rohingya refugees live in 30 refugee camps around Cox's Bazar with rudimentary facilities, no scopes to work, a vulnerable environment far from home, and limited access to education and other fundamental needs. According to UNICEF, about half a million Rohingya refugee children are living in exile from their home country. Girls and boys, who make up more than half (52%) of the Rohingya population, are particularly vulnerable to risks of abuse, exploitation, and gender-based violence (GBV) and have been disproportionately affected by the crisis due to physical, psychological, and social vulnerabilities.

Our Program Strength

Global Networking: We have a well-established presence and great acceptance in camps and host communities. We are a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) member under the Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) that makes strategic decisions on child protection issues for the sector. We are also in the Case Management Technical Working Group (CMTWG), while leading the CP-GBV Case Management Task Team. Being a Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) member in Bangladesh, at the global level, we are the co-lead of CP technical taskforces where we contribute to set the quality and standard of programming.

Research, Evaluation & Learning: We have a team of competent staff with local knowledge to inform our work. As an organization, IRC has the Research, Evaluation, and Learning unit that can ensure our programs continue to be evidenced based or that we contribute to the generation of evidence. We are a multisectorial organization, providing CP a chance to achieve child well-being outcomes through strategic collaboration with other sectors. The multi-sectorial nature of IRC offers an opportunity to address intersecting issues that affect the safety of children at home and in the community.

Evidence-Based Policy Advocacy: Our dedicated policy advocacy team leverages our work on the ground and our expert knowledge informed by research and practice to ensure the children, youths, and their parents in the refugee camps and host communities have what they need not only to survive, but also to rebuild and thrive in new communities. We mobilize to influence policies in the global, national, and local perspectives.

Aligning with SDGs: Our CP interventions contributed the SDG Goals 5, 8 & 11 in the communities through the our flagship program on SHLS, SAFE, and comprehensive Case Management Services, 'Learn to Lead' and 'Learn to Earn' in the Rohingya and host communities.

Why IRC is Unique?

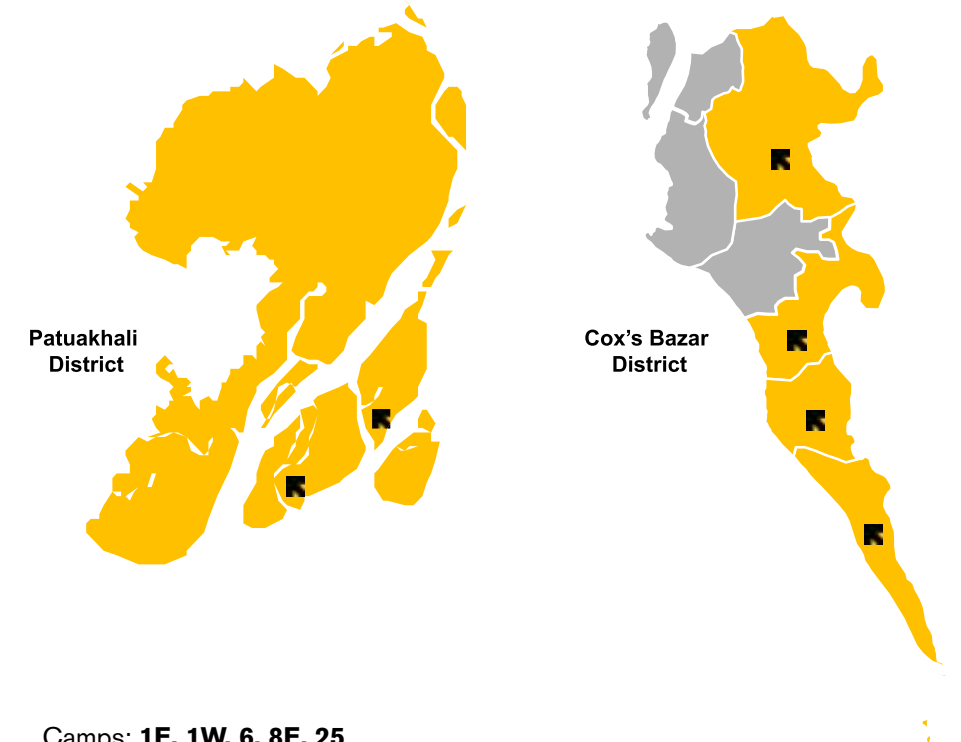
Overall Program Direction

All our child protection and youth development programming is aligned with the Joint Response Plan (JRP), and accordingly with our Bangladesh Strategy Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2024. The SAP aims to reach approximately 200,000 beneficiaries in refugee camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar by September 2024, specifically focusing on women, children, and youth. The SAP will continue working on Cox's Bazar Rohingya refugee crisis and will step into Bangladesh's southern districts and the urban areas in Dhaka to address the problem originating from the climate change and displacement. The CPYD sector has its strategy, which is aligned with the SAP. The IRC will prioritize four thematic areas: child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, and children's access to justice.

Capacity Building & Systems Strengthening

The CP program is responsible for generating human resources, capacity building among clients across all operational locations, and implementing a capacity-building plan for a selected local partner. The IRC adopts a systems-based approach to address the full spectrum of risk factors and create a lasting impact by developing the practices, skills, and performance of each component of the child protection system. The IRC supports governments with legal reform, policy development, and strategic planning for children and families and establishes integrated service delivery mechanisms to respond to protection issues. The IRC strengthens the social service workforce by assessing capacity, providing training and education, and developing toolkits and curricula.

Our Intervention Areas



Camps: **1E, 1W, 6, 8E, 25**

Host: 2 Unions in Ukhiya, 2 Unions in Teknaf, 4 Unions in Ramu, and 5 Unions in Chakaria under Cox's Bazar District, and Rangabali and Golachipa under Patuakhali District.

Our Supporters



Addressing the emergency needs and contributing to the development, donors worldwide fund the IRC CP programs. Currently, we are receiving funds from BHA, Global Affairs Canada, Comic Relief, GFFO, Sweden Sverige, and USAID.

Our Partners



Adhering to the Government of Bangladesh's localization agenda, we shifted strategy towards more significant partnerships with local organizations. We are strengthening the local partners and enriching them for the future. Currently, We are working with Agrajatra, DSK, Shushilan, and YPSA.