ActionAid Bangladesh Safety Audit Report

May 2024

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Acronyms

AAB - ActionAid Bangladesh
AAP - Accountability to Affected Population
APBN - Armed Police Battalion
FDMN - Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
CBP - Community-Based Protection
CFM - Common Feedback Mechanism
CCCM - Camp Coordination and Camp Management
FGD - Focus Group Discussion
GBV - Gender-Based Violence
IEC - Information, Education and Communication
MHPSS - Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NRC - Nayapara Registered Camp
PSEA - Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWD - Persons with Disability
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH - Water, sanitation and hygiene

Background

The massive forced displacement from Myanmar to Bangladesh began in August 2017. As of 30 September 2023, a total of 979,306 Rohingya refugees/FDMN – mostly women and children – are residing in 33 camps in Ukhiya (26) and Teknaf upazilas (7) of the Cox's Bazar district as well as on the island of Bhasan Char (Source: UNHCR Population Statistics; April 2024). Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, the humanitarian response has supported thousands of refugees since August 2017. It is known that the risks of multiple forms of gender-based violence increase in conflict and refugee settings, with women and girls being at significant risk.

Rohingya refugees face multiple risks of GBV at all stages of displacement before fleeing their home country, during travel, and while seeking refuge. High levels of intimate partner violence have been documented in the region. Such violence is closely related to harmful cultural gendered norms. Additionally, reports indicate that those fleeing Rohingya refugee camps face risks of trafficking for sexual exploitation, especially at border points and during their journey. These GBV risks are tied to unsafe conditions in various contexts and the highly gendered dynamics of Rohingya displacement. Additionally, discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals and refugees has been reported, further exacerbating the risks of GBV.

A Safety Audit aims to promote multi-sector action to reduce the risks of GBV and provides an analysis of gaps and challenges in access to comprehensive and quality support for survivors of GBV. Given the lack of information related to the specific dynamics of GBV risks that refugees from Myanmar face in different settings, the present Safety Audit assists in filling this information gap by identifying specific GBV risks in the refugee context.

The safety audit was conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh's CBP, CCCM, and GBV teams through risk mitigation measures between 12th and 26th May 2024. This audit was conducted in the Five camps where CBP, CCCM, and GBV are implementing their activities supported by UNHCR. The safety audit is presented as a risk mitigation exercise conducted by both GBV and non-GBV actors such as CBP and CCCM, seeking to inform programming on the identified needs to mitigate the risk of GBV in CBP and CCCM sectors. Despite efforts to ensure that needs are met, imminent risks of GBV remain high. Mainstreaming GBV services within other sectors plays a key role in assessing the risks and prioritised needs of the affected population. Furthermore, the safety audit informs GBV-related concerns for immediate response interventions at the coordination level.

Methodology

The safety assessment incorporated quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from five Rohingya camps. These approaches are instrumental in understanding the community's safety, accessibility, service availability over the first quarter, and the current situation.

The following qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were used for the assessment:

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): A qualitative data collection tool typically conducted in small group interview formats, separated by age and gender. FGDs allow for an in-depth understanding of community risk areas, safety concerns, experiences, viewpoints, perspectives, shared and diverging beliefs, norms, and knowledge, providing concrete information about the issues at stake.

Survey: The safety audit survey collects numerical data on the community's safety perceptions and experiences. It includes structured questions about risk, safety levels, and the condition of services.

The assessment was conducted in Camp 8 West, 21, 27, 26, and NRC. These locations were chosen to provide a diverse representation of community perspectives: 150 individual surveys and 15 FGDs involving 158 community members where 50% were male and 50% were female. Participants were purposefully selected from various blocks within the camps to ensure demographic diversity.

Respondent per location
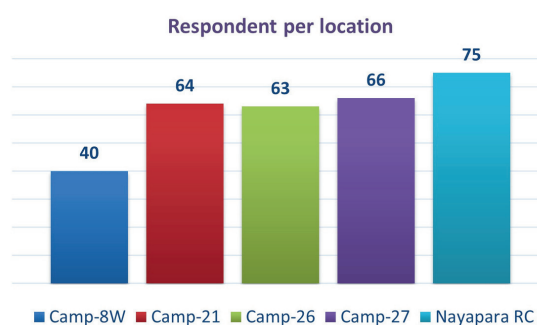
The table below provides an overview of the data collection sources:

Survey Covered	FGD Covered	Total Male	Total Female	PWD	Elderly
150	158	155	153	14	19

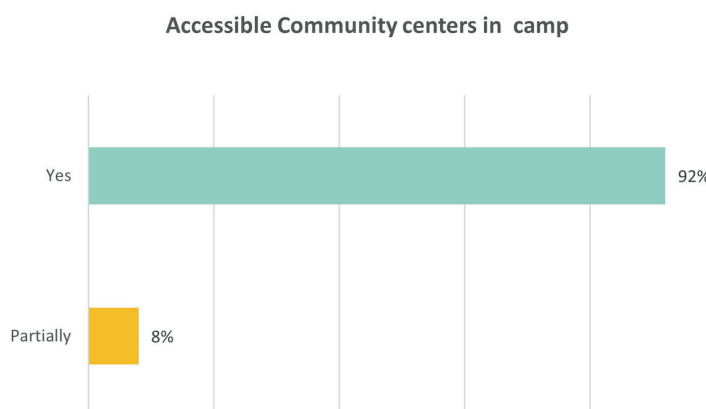| Location	Survey (150)			FGD (15)		
	GBV	CBP	CCCM	GBV	CBP	CCCM
Camp-8 West	10	10	0	1	1	0
Camp-21	10	10	12	1	1	1
Camp-26	10	10	13	1	1	1
Camp-27	10	10	12	1	1	1
NRC	10	10	13	1	1	2

During the field visits, data from each survey was stored offline on the tablets and uploaded upon returning to the office once internet access was available. Quantitative data was cleaned and analysed using Excel Pivot Tables. For the qualitative data, a thematic analysis process was employed. This involved systematically identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns or themes within the data. The thematic analysis allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the rich qualitative insights provided by the participants regarding safety concerns in their respective communities.
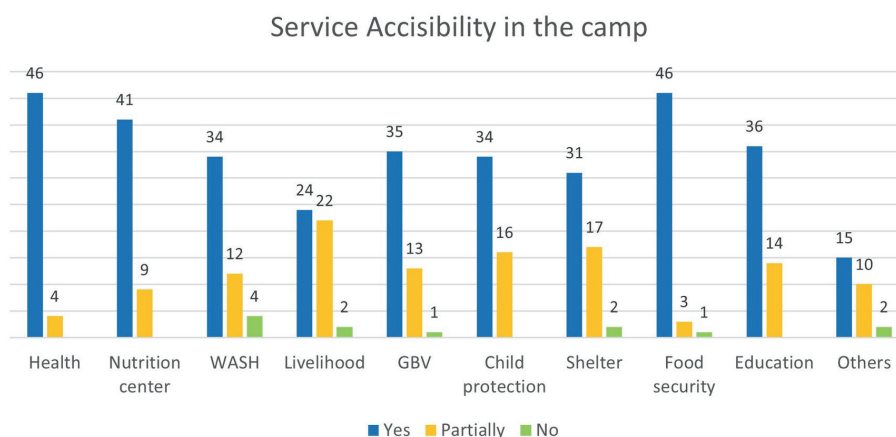
Key findings from CBP survey and FGD

Accessibility of community centres

The vast majority, 92% of respondents, said that community centres in the camp are fully accessible to all groups of people. However, 8% indicate partial accessibility, suggesting potential barriers. Specific challenges include physical obstacles for persons with disabilities especially in camp-8W center and certain locations and limited accessibility on non-working days. Addressing these barriers is essential to ensure equitable access for all residents.

Accessible Community centers in camp

Yes	92%
Partially	8%

Accessibility of service centers

Service Accisibility in the camp

Category	Yes	Partially	No
Health	46	4	
Nutrition center	41	9	
WASH	34	12	4
Livelihood	24	22	2
GBV	35	13	1
Child protection	34	16	
Shelter	31	17	2
Food security	46	3	1
Education	36	14	
Others	15	10	2

■ Yes ■ Partially ■ No

The data provides the accessibility and challenges faced by community members in utilising service centres across different camps:

In Camp-8W, service centres, including those for health, nutrition, WASH, and shelter, are generally accessible to all community members. However, the nutrition centre is situated on a hill, creating challenges for persons with disabilities and older individuals who struggle to reach it.

In Camp-21, 26 and NRC, all service centres are accessible to the community. Residents utilise these centres whenever they encounter problems, indicating a robust and inclusive support system within the camp.

In Camp-27, there is a mixed response regarding the accessibility of information service centres. According to participants, 50% stated that these centres are accessible. However, some participants pointed out that the information service centre is located far from blocks A and B, which poses a convenience issue.

This underscores both the successes and areas for improvement in the accessibility and functionality of service centers across the camps. It highlights the need for targeted interventions to address specific challenges, especially for marginalised groups.

Obstacles to the Block Community-Led Initiative (CLI) in the camp

Obstacles to the Block Community-Led
Initiative (CLI) in the camp

■ Yes ■ No
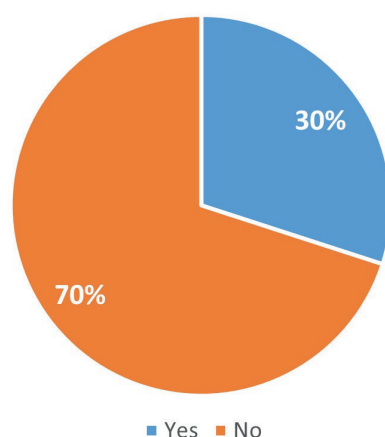
The survey reveals that 70% of respondents report no obstacles to the Block Community-Led Initiative (CLI) in the camp, indicating broad support and smooth implementation. However, 30% of respondents identify obstacles, which highlights challenges that hinder a segment of the population from fully participating in CLI activities.

In Camp-8W, security issues prevent women from feeling safe to leave their homes, posing a significant obstacle to CLI participation. Conversely, in Camp-21, Camp-26, Camp-27, and NRC, respondents report no obstacles to the CLI, indicating that these communities can engage in CLI activities without hindrance.

Ensuring security and addressing any identified barriers are critical for the full and equitable participation of all community members in the CLI. Also, to address this issue, it's suggested to conduct a community-led discussion (CLD) with females at the community level.

Types of community-led initiatives are proposed at community group planning meetings.

At community group planning meetings across various camps, a range of community-led initiatives are proposed. In Camp-8W, 21 and 26, initiatives include stair making, pillow and pillow cover making, small landslide blockage, small bamboo-made bridges, fencing around washrooms or tube wells, and small bridge repairs.

Camp-27 and the NRC both propose initiatives such as block cleaning, shed installation over tap stands, tree plantation, football field repair, culvert repair, dressmaking for persons with disabilities, hand fan making, pillow and cover making, vegetable gardening at blocks, and fencing around gardens and drowning risk-prone ponds. These initiatives address various community needs, from infrastructure repair and maintenance to environmental sustainability and livelihood improvement.

Information Service Center, and it's accessibility

The survey indicates widespread awareness of the Information Service Center, with 98% of respondents acknowledging its presence in the camp. This suggests effective communication channels regarding its role in disseminating essential information and services. However, efforts should continue to ensure the remaining 2% of residents become informed about this resource for enhanced community engagement.

Community aware of the Information Service Center availability

No **2%**

Yes **98%**
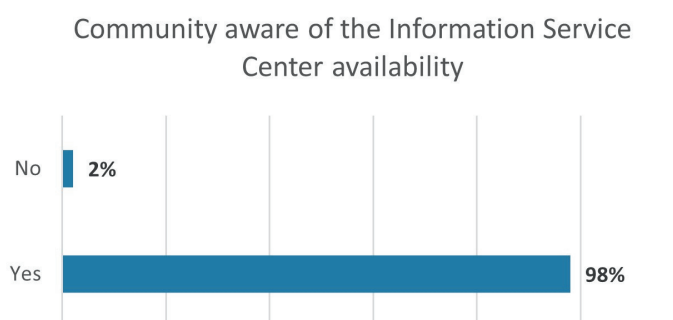
Across various camps, respondents confirm accessibility to the centre, highlighting its inclusivity. In Camp-8W, Camp-21, Camp-26, Camp-27, and NRC, residents are knowledgeable about the centre's services, facilitating easy access for all community members.

The current threat faced by communities

The current threat faced by communities in various camps encompasses incidents such as kidnapping, gun violence, and abduction for ransom.

In Camp-8W, Rohingya community members are being forced to join various organised groups, resulting in frequent arrests and forced recruitment. These incidents predominantly occur during the nighttime hours.

Residents of Camp-21 and Camp-26 are also confronted with threats from individuals within the community who wield power and forcibly seize valuable items, including jewellery. In Camp-27 and within NRC, instances of kidnapping, gun violence, and abduction for ransom persist as ongoing threats, notably escalating during the night and early morning hours.

These occurrences underscore the urgent imperative for bolstered security measures and the implementation of robust community protection mechanisms to mitigate such threats and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.
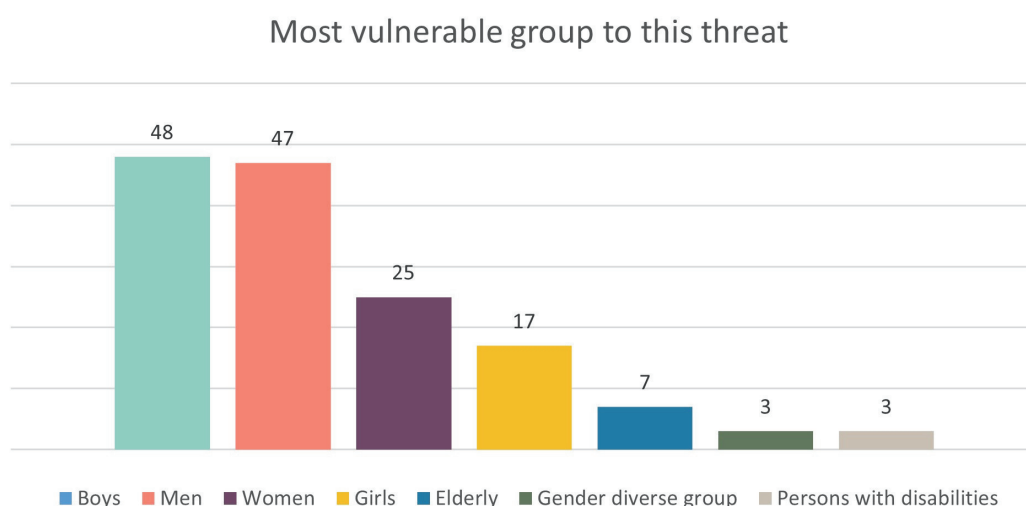
The underlying causes of the threat.

The underlying causes or exacerbating factors contributing to threats in various camps are as follows.

- Insufficient basic needs lead to unethical activities.
- Criminal influence and security system negligence heighten threats.
- Future uncertainty.
- Inter-group conflicts and power dynamics.
- Community members' affiliation with the organised Group.

These summaries delineate the multifaceted nature of underlying causative factors across the camps, underlining the necessity for holistic strategies to mitigate security risks and safeguard vulnerable populations effectively.

More vulnerable group to the threat

Most vulnerable group to this threat

Boys ■ Men ■ Women ■ Girls ■ Elderly ■ Gender diverse group ■ Persons with disabilities

The survey findings reveal that boys and men are perceived as the most vulnerable groups to the identified threats, among 150 survey respondents with 48 respondents highlighting boys and 47 mentioning men. This suggests a widespread concern regarding the safety and security of male individuals within the community. Additionally, women and girls are also considered vulnerable, with 25 and 17 respondents expressing concerns for their safety, reflecting the recognition of gender-specific risks. Furthermore, a smaller number of respondents identified elderly individuals, gender-diverse groups, and persons with disabilities as vulnerable to these threats, indicating a recognition of the diverse vulnerabilities present within the community.

Overall, these findings underscore the complex landscape of vulnerability within the community, with males, particularly boys and men, being perceived as facing the highest risks, while also acknowledging the vulnerabilities of females and other marginalised groups.

The threat impact survivors and vulnerable people

The threat significantly impacts survivors and vulnerable individuals across the camps. In Camp-8W, the youth population experiences intense fear, leading many to seek refuge in other camps or host communities. In Camp-21, the loss of valuable assets, such as jewellery items, affects survivors' financial security and prospects. Camp-26 residents face both mental and physical repercussions, often experiencing trauma from these incidents.

Similarly, in Camp-27, participants express constant fear and struggle with freely moving within the camp. In NRC, the threat results in movement restrictions, obstacles to free movement, and heightened fear among residents. These accounts underscore the profound and multifaceted impact of the threat on survivors and vulnerable individuals, affecting their well-being, security, and freedom of movement.

The impact of the threat on the community

The threat has a profound impact on the general community across the camps. In Camp-8W, particularly women and girls, experience heightened fear due to frequent kidnappings of youths by unknown groups. Camp-21 witnessed a rapid spread of rumours, prompting community members to seek refuge outside the camp when faced with threats. Similarly, in Camp-26, the threat significantly disrupts the daily lives of community members, affecting their overall well-being.

In Camp-27, the threat instils fear and anxiety in the minds of community members, leading to a pervasive sense of insecurity. Likewise, in NRC, the threat creates a fearful environment among the general community in the camp, exacerbating feelings of vulnerability and uncertainty. Overall, the threat adversely affects the community's sense of safety, stability, and peace of mind.

How vulnerable individual protect themselves

Vulnerable people in the camps take various measures to protect themselves. In Camp-8W, they rely on the Bangladeshi government and APBN for safety. In Camp-21, they report issues to APBN and seek legal support. Camp-26 residents stay alert and report to block leaders and APBN. In Camp-27 and NRC, participants suggest avoiding unnecessary movement, sharing plans with relatives, and maintaining communication with family members to stay safe.

These strategies help mitigate risks and enhance security. In many areas, Rohingya women stand against forced conspiracy and emerge as defenders of the community, wielding sticks to chase off organised groups.

Recommendations from the community

To improve safety in the community:

- Promote moral awareness about safety at the community level.
- Encourage community leaders to advocate for peace and safety within their communities.
- Ensure law enforcement agencies are active and vigilant within the camp to maintain safety.
- Urge the Bangladesh Government to act against organised groups to enhance community safety.
- Legal regulations must be strictly enforced, with APBN police staying informed about camp situations.
- Encourage behavioural changes that promote safe living within the community.
- Disseminate security-related information promptly to prevent incidents and accidents.
- Increase the presence of law enforcement agencies and improve coordination with community leaders and relevant offices.
- Promote a helpline number to get instance support.
- Build a safe space point for immediate shelter.
- Build strong bonds within the community to support each other during incidents.
- Encourage close collaboration between the community, UNHCR, and NGOs to enhance safety and support.

Implementing these recommendations will help create a safer environment for all community members.

Key findings from CCCM survey and FGD

Overcrowded shelters in the camp

The survey reveals that 68% of respondents perceive the camp or site as overcrowded, signalling a significant community concern. This overcrowding presents challenges such as limited access to essential services, strain on resources, and increased disease risks. Addressing this issue is crucial for residents' well-being and safety. Certain camps, such as Chakmarkul, suffer from insufficient spacing between shelters, inadequate security measures, and poor lighting.

Camp/site overcrowded

68% Yes
32% No
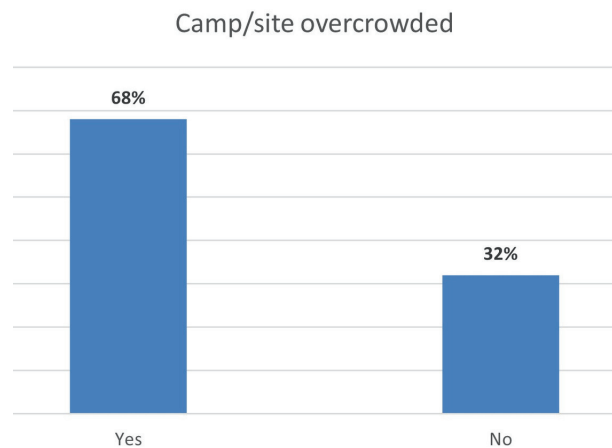
Similar challenges are observed in Camp 26, while perceptions vary in Camp 27. In the NRC camp, overcrowding persists, hindering movement and security despite efforts to maintain privacy. These findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive solutions to improve living conditions and ensure residents' safety and dignity.

Light facility in the community

The lighting infrastructure in various camps exhibits significant disparities, impacting community safety and welfare. 62% have adequate lighting facilities. However, 38%, still lack access to lighting. This lack of light facilities can have considerable implications for the safety and security of community members, especially during nighttime.

Approximately 54% confirm reliable nightly lighting, but 46% report interruptions, emphasising maintenance needs. Inadequate lighting, uneven solar functionality, and non-functional streetlights exacerbate insecurity. Essential facilities shortage poses risks for women and girls. Addressing these deficiencies is vital for community safety and well-being.

Availablability of light in the community

38%
62%

■ Yes ■ No
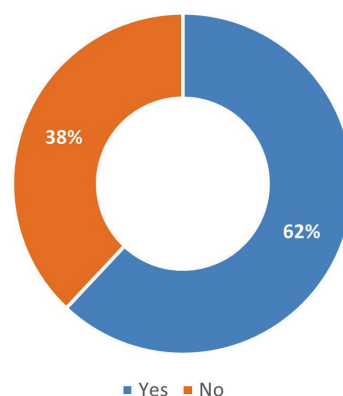
Water and Sanitation (WASH)

Water:

Camp have operational water points


■ No ■ Yes

The survey indicates that 90% of respondents have access to operational water points, but 10% do not, highlighting a gap in universal access. In Camp-21, the water supply is inconsistent, although water points are safely accessible and mainly used by women and girls without significant wait times. Camp-26 has functioning water points, though some are distant from certain households, leading to long lines for women and girls. Camp-27 also provides secure water points, but low water flow causes long queues. In the NRC, all water points are operational but exposed to the elements, with frequent long queues. There are no armed individuals visible near the water points. Overall, ensuring consistent, reliable, and equitable access to water points remains crucial for community well-being.

Latrine:

98% of respondents have access to functioning latrines, reflecting a high level of sanitation infrastructure, while 2% report a lack of functional latrines.

In Camp-21 there is a shortage of latrines, with some needing repairs and not all having functional interior locks.

Some latrines are gender segregated. Latrines in Camp 26 have functional locks and provide security, but they lack gender segregation.

Functioning latrines in camp site

98%

2%

Yes   No
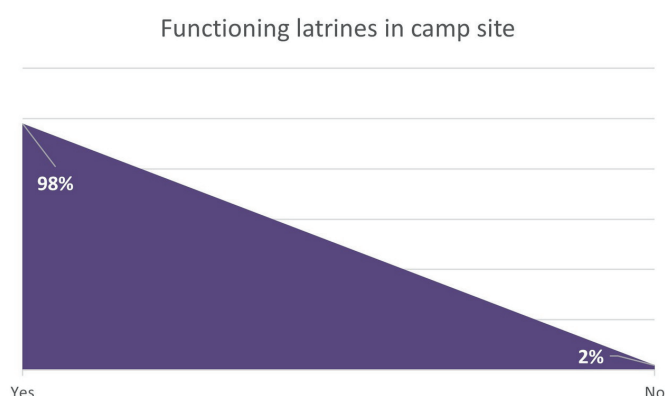
In the NRC, latrines are functional but face issues with sludge accumulation, distance from shelters, and lack of gender segregation, leading to occasional conflicts. Most latrines have interior locks, but a few blocks are missing them. There are no armed individuals near the latrines, although unknown persons are occasionally present.

Overall, enhancing the functionality, security, and accessibility of latrines is crucial for the health, hygiene, and well-being of camp residents.

Bathing facility:

In the surveyed camps, 72% of respondents confirm functioning bath spaces or showers, while 28% report a lack of these facilities.

Camp-21 has insufficient bathing spaces, some needing repair, with varying gender segregation and security measures.

Camp-26 has showers in secure locations with functional bathing spaces but lacks gender segregation.

In Camp-27 and NRC, most residents have separate bathing spaces inside their shelters, as community bathing spaces are far from their houses.

Improvements are needed to ensure all residents access proper bathing facilities, essential for hygiene and well-being.

Functioning Bathing space availability

28%

72%

■ Yes ■ No
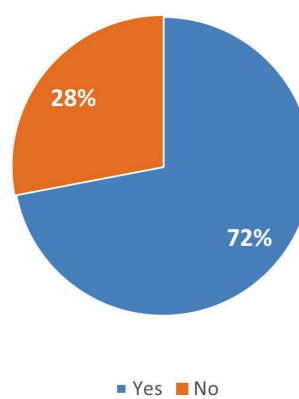
Community

School:

The survey findings indicate that 86% of respondents confirm the presence of open schools within the community, while 14% report their absence. Additionally, 84% of respondents state the existence of safe access routes to schools, with 18% reporting otherwise. These results underscore the critical importance of ensuring access to education and safe commuting routes for all community members. In Camp-21, Camp-26, and Camp-27, open schools are reported to exist, accompanied by safe access routes, and no incidents involving armed individuals.

Available with safe accessible school

safe access route to schools — 18% / 82%

schools in the communit — 14% / 86%

■ No ■ Yes
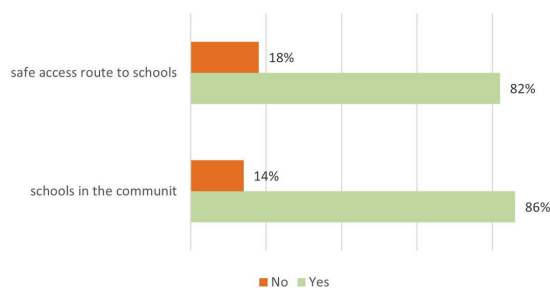
However, in NRC, while open schools are acknowledged, concerns are raised regarding their adequacy, and organised groups are reportedly visible near these educational institutions. Overall, addressing any gaps in educational infrastructure and safety measures is essential to ensure equitable access to education for all community members.

Market:

The survey reveals that 88% of respondents confirm the presence of a market within or near the camp or site, with 12% reporting its absence. Additionally, 86% of respondents state the existence of a safe access route to these markets, while 14% report otherwise. Across various camps, these findings highlight the accessibility of markets and the importance of safe commuting routes for community members to engage in essential economic activities.


Availability of market with safe access route

■ Availability of market ■ Safe access route to markets
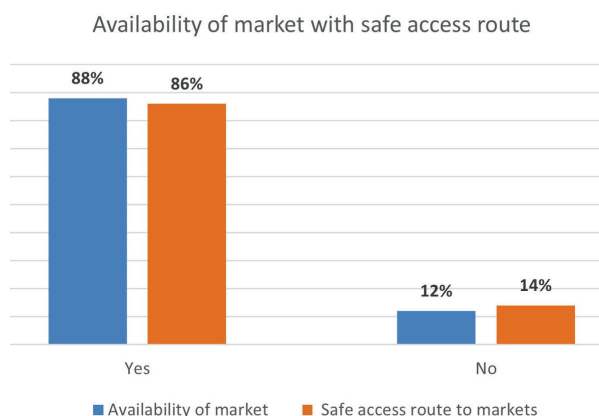
Barriers within or near the camp

In Camp-21, Camp-26, and Camp-27, no barriers or armed checkpoints are reported to obstruct key access routes to health centres, schools, or other vital community service points. However, in the NRC, check posts set up by APBN are present, causing difficulties for residents when accessing items such as LPG and shelter kits.

CFM

The survey outcomes indicate that an overwhelming majority, specifically 98% of respondents, are cognisant of the existence of a structured mechanism, such as a CFM help desk or hotline number, designated for residents to articulate complaints, express dissatisfaction, or offer feedback within the camp. Furthermore, the entirety of respondents, accounting for 100%, demonstrate a thorough understanding of their entitlement to provide complaints and feedback to the site management.

Functional CFM system in the camp
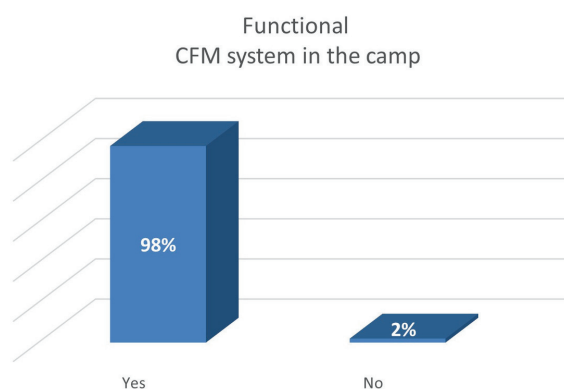
Regarding the preferred modalities for submitting common feedback, the following breakdown emerged:

Prefered Mechanisms to give common feedback
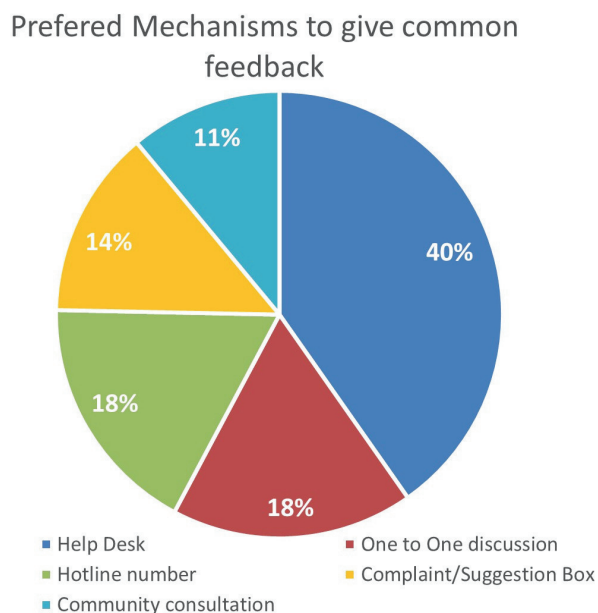
- 40% of the respondents expressed a preference for utilizing a Help Desk.
- Whereas 18% indicated a preference for engaging in one-to-one discussions and chose the utilization of a hotline number.
- 14% preferred the use of a Complaint/Suggestion Box. Another 11% of respondents chose to participate in community consultations.
- These findings underscore the proactive involvement of the community in articulating concerns and furnishing feedback, fostering a culture of transparent communication between residents and site management.

Recommendations from the community to enhance safety:

To improve safety in the community:
- Ensure shelters have ample space.
- Install adequate lighting.
- Provide torches to every family.
- Strengthen law enforcement patrols.
- Ensure separate and sufficient toilet facilities.
- Increase and regularise water supply.

Additionally, prioritise providing solar lights for female residents' shelters to address safety concerns.

Key findings from the GBV survey and FGD

Overall GBV cases have increased/not change/decreased in the past 4 months:

Ovearall GBV Case Status
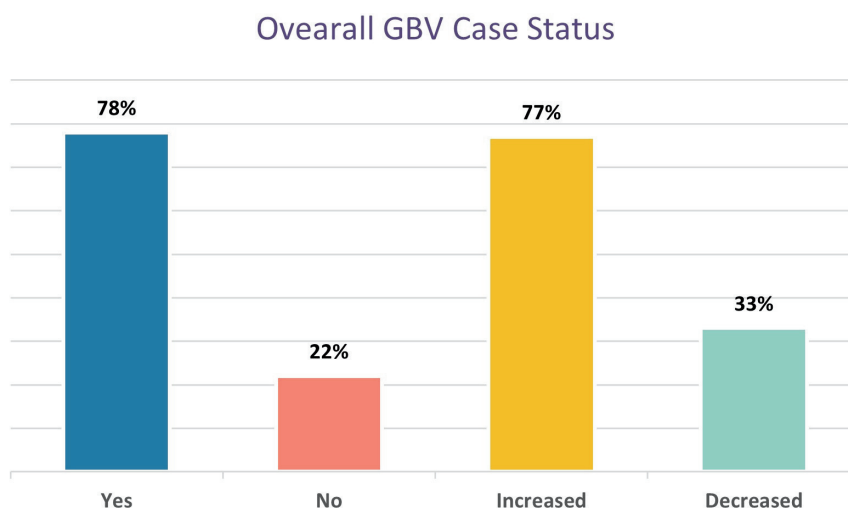
According to a recent safety assessment providing insight into the current state of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), there has been a reported increase in cases for most respondents. Specifically, 78% of the participants observed a rise, while 22% did not perceive any change in GBV cases.

Notably, 77% of the respondents indicated that instances of GBV had increased, particularly in areas identified as Camp 21, Camp 27, and NRC. Conversely, 33% of the respondents reported a reduction in such incidents. Despite this discrepancy in perceptions, it is evident that there is a nuanced understanding of the dynamics surrounding GBV within the community.

Types of GBV that are most common in the camp:

The participants engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding GBV, shedding light on a diverse array of concerns and personal experiences. Their discourse underscored the intricate and multifaceted nature of GBV, revealing its manifestation through various forms, including physical, emotional, and economic violence. Additionally, the participants recognised the complex interplay of socio-economic factors within intimate relationships, highlighting the nuanced dynamics that contribute to the perpetuation of GBV. Additionally, cases of kidnapping, rape, sexual abuse, and were documented. These findings highlight the widespread and multifaceted nature of GBV in the camp.

New/emerging types of GBV in the camp:

In the past four months, the camp has experienced the emergence of various new forms of GBV. Most being, frequently reported incidents of kidnapping and physical abuse. Other reported forms of GBV include emotional violence, economic violence, power imbalance, and sexual abuse. Several incidents have encompassed multiple forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, and financial exploitation. Certain cases have reported a combination of kidnapping, rape, divorce, and trafficking. These findings highlight the diverse and evolving nature of GBV in the camp, requiring urgent attention and intervention.

Contributing factors of GBV incidents, in the camp (e.g. food ration stress, lack of livelihood opportunity, camp security tension, etc.)

The community dialogue highlighted a series of interconnected challenges revolving around gender-based violence (GBV) and security concerns within the camp. Participants unanimously acknowledged the impact of insecurity on the dynamics within households, with men often reluctant to leave their homes, leaving women more vulnerable to abuse. Threats from different organized groups, coupled with tensions stemming from lack of income, inadequate food provisions, and increasing polygamy due to unemployment and dowry pressures, further exacerbated the situation. Commonly cited factors contributing to GBV included early marriage, polygamy, and a dearth of job opportunities. The current state of Camps was described as dire, with heightened risks for youth, men, and boys, who are targeted by Organized Groups. Financial crises and insecurity also led to heightened tensions within households. Overall, the discussions underscored the following factors.
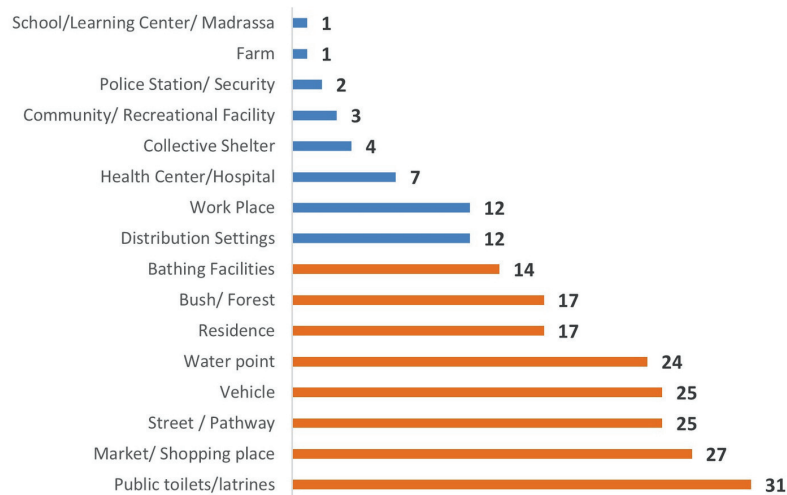
- Lack of police protection
- Toxic masculinity
- Camp security
- Lack of education
- Child marriage
- Dowry
- Unemployment

Respondents also mentioned that the lack of police security emboldens perpetrators, highlighting the need for urgent intervention to address these multifaceted challenges and ensure the safety and well-being of the community members.

Overall GBV risks for women and girls in public spaces in the camp:

The respondents identified the riskiest places for women and girls in the camp. Public toilets and latrines were found to be the most hazardous locations in all five locations. Additionally, markets and shopping areas, streets, pathways, and vehicles were identified as high-risk areas, highlighting significant dangers during daily activities and transit. Water collection points also presented considerable risks.

Riskiest places for women and girls in the camp

Location	Value
School/Learning Center/ Madrassa	1
Farm	1
Police Station/ Security	2
Community/ Recreational Facility	3
Collective Shelter	4
Health Center/Hospital	7
Work Place	12
Distribution Settings	12
Bathing Facilities	14
Bush/ Forest	17
Residence	17
Water point	24
Vehicle	25
Street / Pathway	25
Market/ Shopping place	27
Public toilets/latrines	31

Other areas of concern included residences and bush/forest regions, bathing facilities, distribution settings, and workplaces. Health centres and hospitals were also noted as unsafe locations. Furthermore, collective shelters, community/recreational facilities, police stations/security areas, farms, and schools/learning centres/madrassas were identified as risky environments.

These findings showcase the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to address the intricate interplay of security, economic, and gender-related challenges confronting women and girls within the camp environment.

Women and girls' security concerns:

From the perspectives of women and girls in the camp, 82% felt insecure due to recent changes in the security situation, while 18% did not share this concern.

Qualitative analysis reveals that all participants conveyed a sense of insecurity. Additionally, the camp's security conditions have worsened significantly in camp 8W.

Insecurity due to Recent security situation in the camp

Yes	82%
No	18%
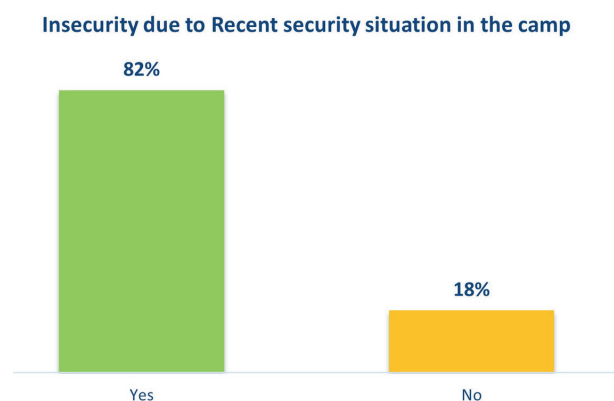
Although in camp-21 most individuals chose to remain silent on the matter, few participants mentioned that they found the security situation to be acceptable.

In contrast, in camp-26, 70% of participants explicitly indicated a substantial security risk, with 30% of others agreeing with this assessment.

Furthermore, in NRC the data indicates that many women and girls are refraining from leaving their homes, even, when necessary, due to these security concerns. This sense of insecurity is particularly acute at night, further restricting their mobility and daily activities within the camp.

These findings underscore the urgent need for enhanced security measures to ensure the safety and well-being of women and girls in the camp.

Additional observations:

The sentiments shared by the maximum number of participants, echoed by others, underscore the significant stress and hardship endured by women within the camp amidst recent events. The departure of male family members has compounded the challenges faced by women in accessing essential provisions, with market closures due to prevailing fear exacerbating their plight. Moreover, the menacing presence of armed groups has endangered a pervasive atmosphere of insecurity, rendering women particularly susceptible to intimidation and harassment, especially in the absence of male guardians. Of notable concern are the disturbances and threats posed by the armed groups, particularly during nocturnal hours, exacerbating anxieties among women and girls. Urgent appeals were made for enhanced safety measures, including police protection and community awareness campaigns. It was unanimously agreed that the absence of armed groups would significantly facilitate feelings of safety within the camp. However, reports indicate a concerning rise in armed group activity, with young men and boys disproportionately targeted for theft, posing a threat to the security of both genders.

These observations underscore the imperative for comprehensive security interventions to safeguard the well-being and dignity of all camp residents, particularly women and girls, considering the prevailing challenges.

Lighting facility at nighttime:

According to recent observations, inadequate lighting at night is a significant concern in the camp. Only 26% of respondents reported having sufficient lighting, while a substantial 74% indicated that lighting is inadequate. This lack of proper lighting exacerbates security risks and contributes to the overall sense of insecurity, particularly for women and girls.

In Camp 8W, 80% of participants noted that their blocks, particularly H54 and A60, have been without lighting for over a year. In Camp 21, 50% of participants mentioned having solar lights in front of their houses, while 20% indicated lights were not near their homes, and 30% indicated lighting facilities had been damaged.

In Camp 26, inadequate lighting contributes to physical abuse and economic denial of resources. In Camp 27, several sub-block areas, including A4, A7, A10, A11, B2, B4, B10, B12, C5, C9, and C3, lack proper lighting and require repairs to existing solar lights. In NRC, blocks C, H, I, and P were reported to have insufficient lighting.

Adequate lighting at night time

- Yes ■ No
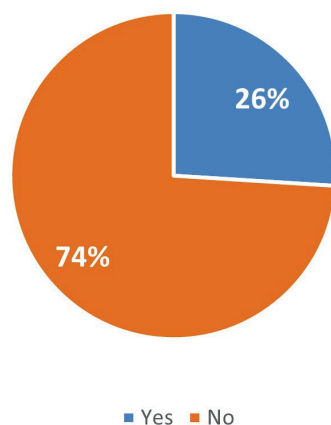
These findings highlight the urgent need for enhanced lighting solutions to improve safety and reduce security risks in the camps.

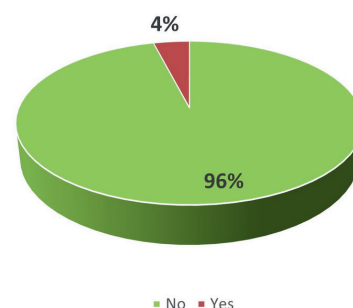**How do women manage in the dark:**

The survey results indicated that an overwhelming majority (96%) of respondents perceived women or girls as not feeling secure when moving in the dark. Conversely, only 4% of respondents indicated that they feel secure when moving in the dark. However, further qualitative analysis revealed nuanced perspectives.

Community feel secure when moving in the dark

- No ■ Yes

A significant portion of respondents expressed feelings of insecurity when moving at night, often preferring to be accompanied by someone. This contradicts the initial perception of security during nighttime movement.

Insights from the NRC highlight broader safety concerns for girls and women. Many respondents conveyed discomfort or insecurity about going out at night, often relying on male family members for accompaniment and reassurance.

In summary, the initial survey suggested a high level of perceived insecurity among women or girls when navigating in darkness, the quality analysis reveals varied experiences and precautionary measures taken to mitigate feelings of insecurity. These findings underscore the importance of addressing safety concerns and implementing measures to ensure the well-being of women and girls in various contexts.
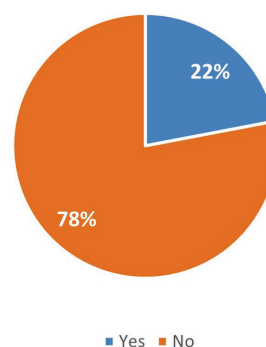
Lighting in latrines at night:

The initial survey revealed that a significant majority (78%) of respondents reported a lack of adequate lighting in latrines, with only a minority (22%) confirming the presence of sufficient illumination in these facilities. Further analysis uncovered nuanced perspectives across different camps and contexts.

Approximately 90% of participants expressed challenges associated with the absence of lighting in latrines, citing difficulty in nighttime movement. They indicated a tendency to venture out only in emergencies, preferring to stay at their shelters at night due to safety concerns.

Adequate lighting facility in latrines

22%

78%

■ Yes ■ No

While lighting was present in some areas of the camps, several participants highlighted the need for repairs or reinstallation in certain locations. Women's nighttime movement was generally limited to emergencies, and they resorted to using torchlights for nighttime visits. Most respondents (88%) manage darkness by carrying a light source, such as a torchlight or a phone flashlight. In comparison, a smaller proportion (12%) rely on the company of family members to navigate in the dark, indicating a reliance on personal light sources due to inadequate infrastructure.

Strategy taken during dark

Family Member's company — 12%

Carry light — 88%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
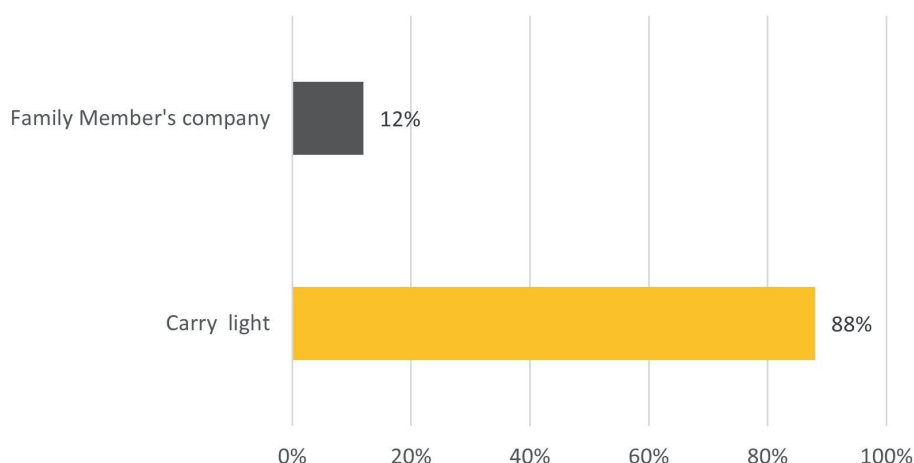
In summary, the quality analysis reinforces the initial survey findings of insufficient lighting in latrines. Participants across different camps expressed concerns about nighttime movement and security, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure and safety measures to ensure the well-being of women in these environments.

Service provision in the camp:

The survey indicates that a substantial majority (94%) of respondents confirmed the availability of health services for girls and women in the community or camp. Only a small minority (6%) reported a lack of such services.

Availability of health services in the community

Availability of psychosocial support
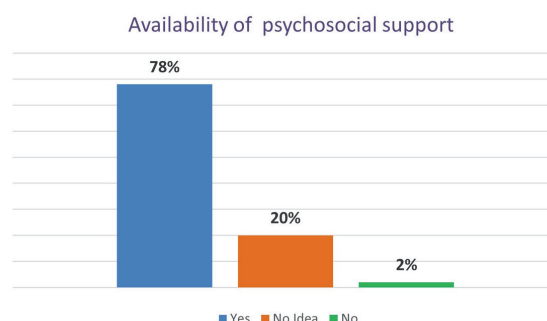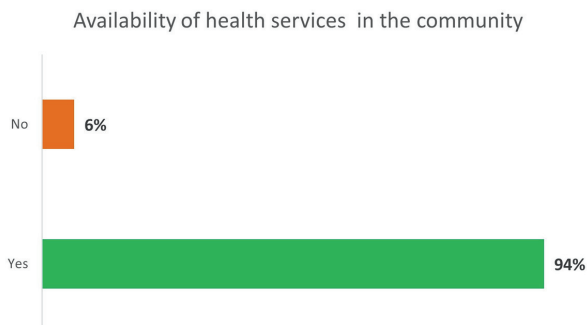
Regarding the availability of psychosocial support systems, 78% of respondents affirmed their presence. However, 20% of respondents had no idea about the availability of such support, and 2% indicated that there were no psychosocial support systems available.

In summary, the survey results demonstrate a high availability of health services for girls and women in the community or camp. Additionally, a significant majority reported the presence of psychosocial support systems, although a portion of respondents were unaware of these services. These findings highlight the overall accessibility of essential health and support services for women and girls, while also pointing to a potential need for better awareness and communication about available psychosocial resources.

APBN availability in any emergency:

The survey shows that 58% of respondents confirmed the availability of the Armed Police Battalion (APBN) during emergencies, while 42% did not.

In Camp-8W, participants reported inadequate APBN support and requested increased night patrolling. Most respondents in Camp-21, Camp-26 and camp-27 confirmed APBN availability during emergencies. However, feedback from the NRC indicated that while the APBN is available, it often fails to respond effectively.

These findings highlight a general acknowledgement of the APBN's presence but also reveal significant concerns about its consistency and effectiveness across different camps.

Availability of APBN in emergency
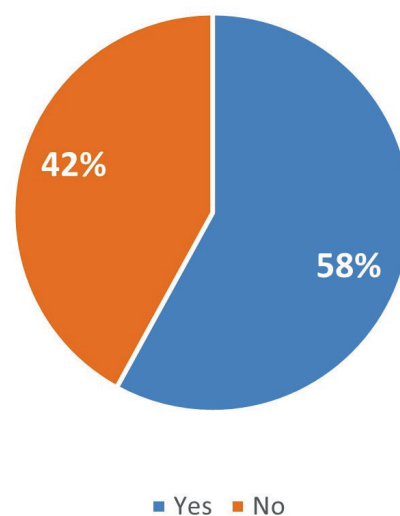
Recommendations from the community:

Residents and stakeholders have proposed several measures to enhance community safety. These include:

- Increase APBN patrolling at night
- Improving police protection.
- Establishing emergency hotline numbers and enhancing administrative services.
- Deploy more night guards.
- Improve lighting systems.
- Promote awareness and education.
- Collaborate with community leaders.
- Enhance health services and combat banditry.

Recommendations based on the existing needs, gaps, and challenges.

The recommendations below are general to the refugee response. The goal is to seek a collaborative approach towards enhancing community safety and response in the camps.

General recommendations

- **Advocate for integrating gender-based violence risk reduction and response activities into all refugee response programs**, alongside commitments to protect against sexual exploitation and abuse. This may involve reporting requirements related to GBV risk reduction and response mainstreaming. Additionally, programmes should designate focal for GBV mainstreaming within their teams to collaborate with specialised GBV actors for technical support and guidance.
- **Conduct community consultations in the Rohingya Refugee community**, specifically engaging women, girls, and other at-risk groups. The goal is to identify gaps and risks related to GBV and develop a response action plan. Additionally, consider regular monitoring and safety audits as tools to identify risks and inform program design.
- **Coordinate GBV risk reduction and response actions** in the refugee response with the GBV sub-working group to avoid duplication, receive information, and obtain adapted technical guidance. Ensure that gaps are adequately identified and addressed. Share identified GBV risks with other sectors to enable collective and coordinated measures for risk reduction.
- **Enhance capacity for GBV risk reduction and response** within the refugee response. Implement various capacity development initiatives for non-GBV actors, focusing on GBV core concepts, safe disclosure, referrals, and tailored GBV risk reduction training relevant to their specific sectors.

Furthermore, assesses in more depth GBV service provision capacity with the view to develop and resource a GBV service provider capacity building plan. Ensure that the capacity of actors providing immediate, targeted support (health, security and shelter).

Sector Specific Recommendations

✓ Protection

- Establish women-led community-based protection centres in the camp.
- Activate the community watch group and ensure women's participation in leading this group to promote camp safety.
- Ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of women and other community members to share GBV risks and identify response needs with GBV actors directly to better ensure a rapid response.
- Increase awareness of anti-trafficking for the community and service providers, ensuring that messaging is survivor-centred and based on community consultation. Equally, ensure that clear information on GBV reporting and response for survivors is communicated and that anti-trafficking referral pathways have the capacity to respond to refugees at risk on the ground.
- Sensitize community leaders, including elders, religious leaders, and women's group leaders, on human rights and raise awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Additionally, a guide on mitigating the risks associated with GBV.
- Promote a strong and easy reporting mechanism to respond to immediate force recruiting/abduction risks.
- Establish safe space points/locations to provide immediate shelter support for all.
- In coordination with the CCCM sector, assess housing and property protection needs for refugees residing in the host community/private accommodations. Improve access to information on protection services and official complaint mechanisms in private/host accommodations.
- Setting up and supporting camp-based safety groups and/or patrols comprised of women and men to create a safer environment for all.

🏠 Shelter and camp management

- Increase the leadership roles of women, girls, children, people with disabilities and members of marginalised communities at all stages of the DRRM (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management) cycle. Empower them to mobilise groups effectively, including promoting savings, accessing contingency resources and seeking support.

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- Develop a joint action plan to reach out and raise awareness on GBV and PSEA for refugees. Additionally, it enhances staff capacity for safe disclosures and reporting.
- To improve the lighting conditions within collective centres, it is essential to foster better coordination and collaboration with the energy and environment Sector. By assessing existing infrastructure, generating reports and regular awareness campaigns, CCCM can contribute to the safety, well-being, and overall living conditions of the Rohingya community.
- Conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of the CFM desk in the Rohingya Community. Based on the findings, increase channels for communicating information on available reporting options, with clear mechanisms for community members to ask questions or file complaints.
- Coordinate with other sectors and the CIC to begin providing transportation support. This support should focus on assisting pregnant women, transporting injured or deceased individuals, and offering information, support, and referrals for persons at risk or survivors.
- Develop a mechanism to ensure joint support during any emergency.
- Enhance privacy in shelter and WASH facilities, including individual lockable doors for sleeping areas and bathing facilities.
- Increase the number of trained female firefighters as first responders.

WASH

- Conduct training sessions and ensure hands-on support to encourage GBV risk mitigation actions by WASH staff and partners.
- Increase women's hygiene centres in camps.
- Increasing disabled-friendly WASH facilities and those that minimise risks of safety and GBV-related incidents.
- Increase solar lighting for using WASH facilities at night.
- Establishing a menstrual hygiene management corner in communal WASH facilities.
- Distance of WASH facilities from the shelter should be optimal.
- Ensuring gender segregation in WASH facilities.
- Creating a water management committee composed of women or of women support groups for water collection should be explored.

GBV

- Develop a joint GBV awareness-raising campaign, with the inclusion of the department for gender equality, local women's organisations and international organisations. The campaign should include clear information on service access and target risks and harmful gender attitudes, including towards refugees, identified with the community.
- Implement contextually relevant and age-appropriate in-person community outreach to enhance engagement with refugees and marginal Rohingya community members. This approach aims to build trust, raise awareness about GBV, and disseminate essential service information.
- Enhance awareness of GBV referral pathway in Rohingya community (including printed IEC materials and information in alternative accessible formats).
- Promote resettlements or durable solutions programmes for the survivors, including GBV survivors who are at risk and who need immediate protection.
- Increase positive masculinity role in the Rohingya refugee community and ensure visibility and awareness about their positive contribution.
- Strengthen capacities of GBV and child protection enrolled volunteers to support survivors of GBV, including child survivors.
- Capacitate community women's groups on GBV response and prevention to form a community protection group addressing GBV, SHEA and other protection issues.
- Continue strengthening the community-based interventions to build bridges, connections, and solidarity between women, both from the refugee and host community, through innovative methodologies such as using arts, theatre, and sports, among others.
- To strengthen legal cases and ensure the availability of evidence, utilizing Onestop Crisis Centres (OCCs) for services like swap collection, DNA testing, and forensic reporting is highly recommended. This approach fosters the legal protection of individuals by facilitating access to essential evidence collection and analysis.
- Strengthen collaboration with legal actors to ensure safe and comprehensive services for GBV survivors. This includes raising public awareness of the legal rights and support available and fostering safe referrals.

Food Security

- Ensure food and voucher distributions effectively reach the most marginalised groups, including female-headed households.
- Ensure PSEA and safe referral awareness-raising sessions are held during food and voucher distributions and during sensitisation in the community to inform about PSEA risks, referral mechanisms and available support services.

Child Protection

- Conduct consultations with adolescents, girls in particular, to identify appropriate mechanisms for accessing GBV information and relevant services.
- Collaborate with and offer assistance to other sectors to ensure that child protection is integrated into all programming for the response.
- Implement GBV awareness activities for children in schools and child-friendly spaces.
- Ensure that all actors within each sector receive orientation on child protection, safeguarding, and referral pathways.

Health

- Increase GBV mainstreaming in the health sector to make post-rape treatment and clinical management of services available and to share accurate and accessible information with the Rohingya refugee population.
- Enhance collaboration and coordination with the health sector to promote gender sensitivity and implement a survivor-centred approach, ensuring safe referrals.
- Ensure that all health workers receive training on GBV safe disclosure and Psychological First Aid (PFA). Additionally, provide them with information on holistic referral pathways to other services, including psychosocial support, case management, shelter, legal assistance, and more.
- Strengthen the capacity and accessibility of specialised mental health and psychosocial services for survivors of GBV, including child survivors.

Livelihood

- Involve youth in meaningful social and economic activities that not only keep them engaged but also provide income. Additionally, ensure that peacebuilding actions and messaging campaigns are integral components of every livelihood program.
- Empowering women through capacity development and informing them about their rights.
- Contribute to women's empowerment through non-formal education and literacy numeracy training.
- Intervention
- Increase participation in women's markets and introduce a place where women can buy cell materials in each camp.
- Develop/improve economic empowerment for women by promoting accessible livelihood opportunities.

Acknowledgment