



Rising Together – Building Resilient & Inclusive Communities through Women & Youth Empowerment

Swiss Portfolio Outcome:	Improved social well-being for all
Implementation Period:	15.11.2024 – 14.11.2026
Implementing Partner:	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Swiss Contribution:	CHF 2 million
Modality:	Contribution

General Description

Amid the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, vulnerable populations, particularly women and young people, face unique challenges. Women and girls endure high levels of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and have limited access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, often due to harmful cultural norms, economic insecurity, and inadequate protection. Young people, who comprise the majority of the refugee population, lack access to education, livelihoods, and social opportunities, putting them at risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, human trafficking, and recruitment into organized/armed groups. The project leans in to the Humanitarian-Development Nexus with the intent to equip women, girls, adolescents, and youth (Rohingya refugee and host communities) in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char to mitigate and pro-actively prevent protection related issues, as well as promote youth development and resiliency amidst a protracted crisis and time of political fragility.

Objectives

The project aims to address widespread Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against women and girls in both Rohingya refugee and host communities, as well as the need for skill development among youth, in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char. In partnership with UNFPA, Switzerland aims to improve protection services and provide training opportunities, thereby reinforcing its commitment to gender equality and social inclusion as a form of resilience building.

Lines of Action / Components

- Women and adolescents/youth have access to high-quality, integrated services for youth development, GBV, SRH, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).
- Coordination mechanisms for multi-sectoral and integrated services are strengthened.
- Women and young people, including community members, promote positive social norms regarding GBV, youth development, and SRH.
- Young people's capacities to adopt positive coping mechanisms and actively engage in community development are strengthened.

Intended Impact in terms of Systemic Change

The intended impact of this project is to drive systemic change by empowering local actors to meet service needs and challenge harmful social norms, ensuring sustainability beyond the project's duration. The *Rising Together* project enhances sectoral coordination, identifies service gaps, and raises partner awareness on youth development, GBV, SRH, and MHPSS. It capacitates Rohingya networks and strengthens community-based protection, fostering active participation from both Rohingya and host community volunteers for long-term sustainability. By integrating and fortifying existing service structures and building local capacity, the project's positive impact will be enduring.



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Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh



Intervention Targets

- A total 97,590 beneficiaries (Rohingya refugee and host community) will be reached with protection services.
- 208 community members are actively engaged in strengthening gender-responsive community mechanisms (e.g., adolescent and youth networks/clubs, women's self-help or support groups, community watch groups) and leading advocacy initiatives to improve SRH services, prevent GBV, and promote youth development.
- A total 64,400 beneficiaries (women and girls) will access GBV prevention and response services through UNFPA-managed safe spaces in the Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding host communities.
- Around 57 government and non-government institutions/organizations will receive technical support for the better management of GBV prevention and response related program design, data management, result sharing, and quality assurance.