



Good
Neighbors
Bangladesh

Impact Study of Good Neighbors Bangladesh for FDMN and Host Communities



AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Primary author

Muhammad Mahbubul Islam Bhuiyan

Secondary author

Md. Zahir

Contributors

Mr. Powlovokto Mondal, Manager, Ukhia CDP, GNB

Mr. Prosenjit Mollah, Senior Manager, M&E Team, GNB

Ms. Hyunhwa Yang, Lead, Global Humanitarian Operation Unit, GN GPC Korea

Published by

Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Designed by

Md. Al-Imran Monju, Communication and Partnership Team, GNB

Published Date

November 2025

Photo

© **Good Neighbors Bangladesh**

Disclaimer

All rights reserved by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. No part of this publication/ photo may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or means without the prior permission of Good Neighbors Bangladesh.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations	3
Executive Summary	4
1. Introduction	10
2. Technical Approach and Methodology	17
3. Findings and Result	23
4. Assessment of Evaluation Criteria	60
Conclusion	71



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBCPC	Community-Based Child Protection Committee
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CiC	Camp In-Charge
CP	Child Protection
CQR	Centre for Qualitative Research
CwD	Children with Disabilities
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSS	Department of Social Services
EMAP	Engaging Men through Accountable Practice
FDMN	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar National
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
JRP	Joint Response Plan
KII	Key Informant Interview
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MPC	Multi-purpose Centre
MPCAC	Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centre
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PD	Program Document
PSS	Psychosocial Support Service
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
REVA	Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
SBCC	Social Behavioral Change Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSWG	Safe Spaces for Womens and Girls
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	Women Friendly Space

Majhi: A Rohingya representative appointed by the Bangladesh Army and government officials who is tasked with helping authorities and humanitarian organizations distribute aid in an area of roughly 100 refugee households.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Context:

Cox's Bazar remains one of the Bangladesh's most socio-economically vulnerable districts, hosting over one million Rohingya/FDMN alongside 2.9 million host community members. Concentrated in 33 camps across Ukhiya, Teknaf, and Bhasan Char, these population live in overcrowded, climate-prone environment with limited access to essential services. Women, girls, and boys—comprising more than 75% of the refugee population—are disproportionately exposed to abuse, exploitation, and gender-based violence (GBV). Physical violence, intimate partner abuse, forced marriage, and polygamy remain prevalent, driven by entrenched gender norms, lack of livelihood opportunities, and deteriorating security in Rohingya/FDMN communities. Adolescent girls in the host communities face additional challenges related to menstrual hygiene, stemming from inadequate awareness, poor school sanitation, and limited access to hygiene materials. Studies highlight that over one-third of girls were unaware of menstruation before menarche, and nearly half of schools lack separate or functional toilets for girls, undermining dignity, health, and school attendance.

In response, since 2017, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has provided humanitarian aid in Cox's Bazar, focusing on child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) among Rohingya/FDMN and host communities. Beginning with emergency relief, Good Neighbors Bangladesh expanded to psychosocial support, case management, and awareness through Child Friendly and Women Friendly Spaces. In partnership with UNICEF since 2019, they implemented integrated GBV and child protection programs, established Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres and provided skills training to women for their economic empowerment. Using survivor-centered and gender-transformative approaches, Good Neighbors Bangladesh engaged community leaders and youth to promote positive norms. To date, over 136,000 individuals have benefited through prevention, response, and protection services by enhancing community resilience and safety.

Methodology:

The study employed a qualitative approach to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of GBV and child protection interventions among Rohingya/FDMN and host communities in Cox's Bazar. Data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), case stories, and field observations using purposive sampling. Conducted between March and April 2025, the study included women, adolescents, community leaders, and stakeholders. A comprehensive desk review informed tool development, while data was analyzed thematically using summaries and matrices. The study ensured cultural sensitivity, confidentiality, and informed consent, adhering to ethical standards, emphasizing participant safety and contextually grounded insights.

Key Findings and Results:

The findings of the study reveal a profound and multi-layered impact across Good Neighbors Bangladesh's intervention areas. The changes noted are not only in knowledge but also in deeply held beliefs, cultural practices, and everyday behaviours.

Increased Awareness and Recognition of GBV:

The awareness and education sessions were conducted by Good Neighbors Bangladesh's significantly enhanced understanding of GBV. Participants, including women, adolescents, and men, shifted from a vague understanding of violence to clearly identifying and explaining

different forms of gender-based violence (GBV) and developed the capacity to identify and respond to such abuses in their personal lives and communities. They provided precise definitions and examples of physical, emotional, socio-economic, and sexual violence. Structured initiatives like EMAP and Girl Shine contributed to transforming perceptions of gender roles, promoting equality, and reducing tolerance of domestic and social violence. Community-based engagement—through group discussions, school sessions, and religious and local leaders—helped foster open dialogue about GBV and encouraged survivors to seek support.

Transforming Attitudes Toward GBV:

Traditionally, women in the Rohingya/FDMN community were expected to silently endure domestic abuse. Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions effectively challenged this harmful norm by raising awareness and providing psychosocial and referral support. Women reported increased understanding of their rights and confidence to seek assistance actively, which is the documentation of a critical cultural shift. There is both awareness and community responsiveness with participants, acknowledging reductions in domestic violence and improved conflict resolution. Good Neighbors Bangladesh successfully established the trusted pathway—first to WFS counsellors ("Apa"), then to community leaders (Majhi), and finally to formal authorities (CiC)—is now known and used. The collaboration among Good Neighbors Bangladesh staff, community leaders, and formal institutions strengthened accountability and made GBV prevention and response mechanisms more sustainable. Stakeholders, including RRRC officials, Majhis, and UNICEF representatives—acknowledged a visible drop in GBV incidents. They emphasized the need to sustain such community-based initiatives to preserve progress.

Strengthened Child Protection Systems:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh established five Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres (MPCACs) to reach children, adolescents, parents, and caregivers with essential services that promote safety, psychosocial wellbeing, and life skills. In partnership with UNICEF and the Department of Social Services (DSS), Good Neighbors Bangladesh supported the strengthening of social service workforces and Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPC), comprising of 105 trained members (52 male, 53 female). These committees played a central role in preventing and responding to child abuse, neglect, trafficking, and exploitation. They also help with case referrals and community awareness. Through regular awareness sessions, dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, and monthly meetings, Good Neighbors Bangladesh enhanced community understanding of key child protection risks such as child labour, child trafficking, and GBV. Engagement of religious leaders (Imams) in Friday sermons helped promote positive community attitudes toward child rights and protection. Testimonials from adolescent participants highlighted improved better awareness of safe touch, improved personal hygiene, and more knowledge about anti-trafficking, indicating clear changes in behavior.

Improved Case Management Services:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's case management services provided accessible and quality support to 840 vulnerable children, including boys, girls, and children with disabilities (CwD/CwDG).

Following Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standards, trained case workers provided comprehensive, child-centered case management encompassing assessment, planning, intervention, and follow-up. The approach focused on transparency, consent, and family participation. It empowered families to take part in decision-making and ensured ethical service delivery. Volunteers helped with early identification and community awareness, connecting families with formal services. A satisfaction survey revealed that 90.1% of respondents were satisfied with Good Neighbors Bangladesh's case management support, underscoring its effectiveness in improving mental health, resilience, and overall child wellbeing. It shows the success of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's holistic, rights-based, and participatory approach to protection and recovery.

Combating Child Marriage:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's ongoing awareness campaigns have led to noticeable reductions in child marriage in both camps and host communities. Through structured group discussions and community dialogues, adolescents and parents gained critical understanding of the health, legal, and social consequences of early marriage.

Adolescents noted the risks of complications like early pregnancy, anemia, and maternal mortality. Meanwhile, parents stated that they rejected child marriage after becoming aware of these dangers. Community leaders, Majhis, and program staff actively intervened to stop attempted child marriages, referring cases to the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) when needed. Women participants also became active advocates, educating others in their blocks on the dangers of early marriage. These efforts show a significant change in community attitudes, encouraging girls' education and postponing the age of marriage through dialogue between generations, learning from peers, and community oversight.

Positive Parenting Transformation:

These sessions focused on responsive caregiving, communication, gender equity, non-violence, and psychosocial wellbeing. Participants reported significant improvements in parenting behavior, highlighting new practices such as avoiding physical punishment, using positive communication, and encouraging children through empathy and storytelling.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's integrated child protection approach has effectively strengthened community ownership, improved reporting and referral mechanisms, and fostered a culture of protection and accountability within both Rohingya and host communities. By combining community structures, formal services, and behavioral change interventions, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made significant progress toward safeguarding children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, while empowering parents, adolescents, and community leaders to sustain these outcomes in the long term.

Adoption of Healthier Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Practice:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving menstrual hygiene management (MHM) practices and addressing long-standing taboos around menstruation in the Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities. The organization's approach combined awareness-raising, material support, and facility improvements to boost health, dignity, and gender equality among women and adolescent girls.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions focused on increasing knowledge, changing harmful norms, and improving menstrual hygiene practices. The approach was organizing awareness sessions and giving out dignity kits. These kits included sanitary napkins, soap, detergent, and hand wash. The sessions covered both practical and cultural aspects of menstruation. They helped adolescents adopt healthier habits, such as drying menstrual cloths in sunlight, keeping genital hygiene, and eating nutritious food during menstruation. Testimonies from adolescent girls demonstrate significant behavioral transformation and reduced fear, shame, and secrecy around menstruation. Early education before menarche gave younger girls the confidence to handle their periods without worry. In both camps and host communities, providing sanitary materials, iron tablets, and hygiene supplies improved long-term menstrual health practices. Parents also noted better understanding. They highlighted, how distributing pads in schools and creating girl-friendly wash blocks decreased absenteeism and health problems during menstruation.

Menstruation, was a silenced and taboo topic, is now openly discussed in communities, schools, and spaces that support women. Through participatory learning, distributing hygiene kits, and creating safe discussion environments, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has effectively made conversations about menstruation normal. Adolescent girls, who were once hesitant to even talk with their mothers, now confidently discuss menstrual care and help peers or siblings understand proper practices. Participants now consider menstrual hygiene as a matter of health rather than shame. They have adopted cleaner and safer habits. This change shows not only better personal hygiene but also increased community support for girls' dignity and well-being. Field evidence shows less stigma, improved school attendance, and an increase in supportive infrastructure, such as separate toilets for girls.

Socio-Economic Empowerment and Skills Training:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made a meaningful impact on the socio-economic empowerment of Rohingya/FDMN women and adolescent girls. They provide skill-based training, and material support within the limits of camp settings. Good Neighbors Bangladesh offers structured training in tailoring and handicrafts in Women Friendly Spaces (WFS). Their goal is to help participants earn income, achieve self-reliance, and restore dignity. Good Neighbors Bangladesh implemented comprehensive skill training programs for women, adolescent girls, transgender individuals, and people with disabilities, focusing on tailoring and handicrafts. The training curriculum was reviewed to meet the participants' interests and needs. Hands-on sessions took place in well-equipped learning centres. Participants received start-up kits, sewing machines, and materials for home-based income-generating activities. Participants voice revealed that women saw these opportunities as life changing. For many, learning sewing and crafts provided not just a new skill but also a way to grow personally and build economic resilience.

Women's Earnings and Household Impact:

Earnings, though limited, had a significant impact at both the household and social levels. Women began helping with family expenses, buying essential goods, and supporting relatives. These actions changed traditional household dynamics. Even those who did not earn cash income used their sewing skills to lower household costs by making clothes for family members. This showed the program's indirect economic value.

The study found that these contributions improved women's social standing and fostered a sense of pride, responsibility, and respect within their families. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for these opportunities, seeing the program as a rare and valuable way to achieve self-sufficiency in camp life. The initiative also fostered non-financial benefits, including increased confidence, self-esteem, and social recognition. With increased financial independence, women gained greater control over personal spending and decision-making. Moreover, the recognition from family members, especially parents who started valuing their daughters' skills and contributions, showed a clear change in social attitudes and gender relations.

Psychosocial Support:

Safe spaces such as Women-Friendly Spaces and Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres were essential for supporting mental well-being. Women and adolescents used these facilities for recreation, peer support, and private counselling. Participants reported improvements in their mental health, including reduced anger and better communication with family members. Parents also learned peaceful parenting techniques that helped create nurturing and supportive home environments. These centres provided safe and trusted environments where individuals could receive counselling, share personal experiences, and participate in recreational activities offering much-needed emotional relief in a humanitarian context. Participants also learned practical strategies to manage stress and anger, such as deep breathing and counting to ten. The closure of some facilities caused feelings of loss and sadness among children, highlighting the significant positive impact these safe spaces had on their lives.

Assessment of Evaluation Criteria:

The study also included some additional criteria, with the findings presented below:

Effectiveness:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have shown remarkable effectiveness in achieving their objectives, particularly in improving the safety, dignity, and empowerment of women and girls. The programs significantly increased awareness of GBV, SRHR, and CP through structured awareness sessions. These efforts led to a shift from passive tolerance to active reporting and community involvement in tackling GBV. In addition, initiatives in MHM helped reduce stigma, ensuring that women and girls could manage their menstrual health with dignity. The socio-economic empowerment of women, facilitated through skill-building programs in tailoring and handicrafts, enabled many to contribute financially to their households, boosting their confidence and independence. These interventions not only improved individual lives but also shifted community attitudes toward gender equality and women's participation in the economy.

Efficiency:

The program demonstrated efficient use of resources, achieving significant outcomes with limited inputs. Focused interventions, such as Women Friendly Spaces, dignity kit distributions, and skill training, reached a large number of beneficiaries without excessive overhead costs. The inclusion of local actors, such as community leaders and religious figures, further enhanced the program's reach and effectiveness, ensuring that interventions were culturally sensitive and impactful. The integration of multiple methods, including community-based awareness campaigns and psychosocial support services, enabled Good Neighbors Bangladesh to address several issues simultaneously, maximizing impact while minimizing costs.

Impact:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions had a transformative impact on both the Rohingya/FDMN and host communities. The reduction in GBV, improvement of MHM practices, decline in child marriage, and enhanced economic opportunities for women were among the most significant outcomes. These changes contributed to increased safety, dignity, and empowerment for women and girls. Community-wide shifts in attitudes, particularly towards child marriage and GBV, reflect the long-term positive effects of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's work. Through its multi-sectoral approach, it has fostered a culture of protection and support, ensuring sustainable improvements in community well-being.

Sustainability:

Sustainability has been a core focus of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's approach. By engaging community leaders and local stakeholders, it has ensured that its interventions are supported by the community and are more likely to continue independently. The establishment of Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) and local leadership training has strengthened community capacity to manage child protection and GBV risks. Additionally, efforts to promote financial sustainability, such as partnerships with local donors and the provision of skill development and income-generating resources, have empowered beneficiaries to create sustainable livelihoods. Good Neighbors Bangladesh's robust monitoring and evaluation system ensured that interventions remain adaptable to evolving community needs.

Key Recommendations:

The recommendations aim to strengthen the long-term sustainability and impact of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions in Cox's Bazar through coordinated, community-based, and inclusive strategies. Under Protection, the focus is on integrating GBV and child protection into all programs, empowering community networks, and expanding GBV services with equitable access for both refugee and host communities. For MHPSS, Good Neighbors Bangladesh should prioritize mental health awareness, integrate psychosocial support in schools, and strengthen safe spaces with trauma-informed care and referral systems. Economic empowerment recommendations emphasize women's economic empowerment through diversified skills training, inclusive opportunities for PwDs and transgender persons creating stronger market linkages. In MHM, continued menstrual hygiene education, construction of women-friendly facilities, and consistent provision of dignity kits are vital. Cross-cutting actions include building local capacity, improving M&E systems, and fostering collaboration between government, NGOs, and communities. Emphasizing gender equity, participation, and multi-sectoral coordination, these strategies aim to sustain progress, enhance protection and resilience, and empower both Rohingya/FDMN and host communities for long-term social cohesion and wellbeing.

1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 Background and Context:

Cox's Bazar is one of the most socio-economically vulnerable districts in Bangladesh. As of 31 January 2025, Bangladesh is hosting 10,05,675 Rohingya/FDMN, of whom approximately 51.34% are female with 4% older people¹ residing in the refugee camp, in particular 7.84% of total individuals have been identified with at least one specific need and 4.78% being Persons with Disability. Households reside in 33 camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh in both the space-constrained, densely populated, and climate vulnerable Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas within the Cox's Bazar District, as well as on the island of Bhasan Char². There are also approximately 2.9 million people, including 568,000 people from Bangladesh host communities residing in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas³ who have been the most directly affected by the presence of the Rohingya/FDMN⁴.

Women, girls, and boys, who make up more than 75% of the Rohingya/FDMN population, are particularly vulnerable to risks of abuse, exploitation, and gender-based violence⁵. According to gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS) factsheet (April-June 2023), physical violence remains the highest reported incident and is interlinked with the incidences of denial of resources, emotional abuse and forced marriage. Approximately 80% of reported GBV incidents occur in the context of domestic or intimate partner violence⁶. Polygamy is increasingly common in the camps and correlates with many reported incidents. Other contributing factors include lack of livelihood opportunities, extramarital affairs, dowry practices, substance abuse, and deteriorating safety and security conditions. Rape and sexual assault remain underreported due to stigma and social shame⁷. Women and girls reported a lack of awareness among men regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and practices, influenced by prevailing social norms and gender attitudes, which often results in men asserting control over women's bodies and reproductive choices⁸. An endline assessment of CARE Bangladesh revealed that 50% of female respondents depend on their partners' decisions regarding contraception, only 7% make their own decisions, and 43% take joint decisions with their husbands⁹.

According to the Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-7) undertaken by UN agencies 97% of all Rohingya households are moderately to highly vulnerable and remain entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and vulnerable Rohingya households increased by 3 percentage points from 2022, reaching 86 percent. This increase was largely driven by ration cuts and economic shocks such as inflation, which began impacting the community in the second quarter of 2022¹⁰. Most of the children and parents have significantly impacted psychosocial well-being due to

1. Joint Government of Bangladesh - UNHCR Population Factsheet as of January 2025

2. 2025-26 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

3. Upazilas are administrative units in Bangladesh. Districts are divided into Upazilas (or sub-Districts), then Unions, then wards, and then villages

4. ISCG, Rohingya refugee joint response plan 2023, pg 14

5. ISCG, Rohingya refugee joint response plan 2023, pg 14

6. GBVIMS factsheet, April-June 2023, Cox's Bazar

7. GBVIMS Annual report 2023

8. Joint protection Monitoring Report, July-September 2023

9. CARE Bangladesh, Endline Assessment "Improving lives of Rohingya refugees and host community members in Bangladesh through sexual and reproductive healthcare integrated with gender-based violence prevention, response violence prevention and response", published on March 2023

10. Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-7) Report 2024

recent cut down of ration, limited access to income generating, ongoing conflict, safety and security issues in the camp. This has increased fear and anxiety, depression, lack of confidence, loneliness, neglect and eating disorders, conflict with parents, problems with friends in the respective Rohingya/FDMN camp¹¹. In many resources constrained settings, including emergencies, inadequate access to safe, clean and private toilets has been associated with increased experiences of stress, embarrassment, physical discomfort and gender-based violence. At the same time girls are using communal facilities face issues of overcrowding, distance from shelters, lack of adequate gender segregation, safety, privacy and cleanliness of facilities.

The adolescent population, especially girls of the host community, face significant challenges in managing menstrual hygiene due to limited awareness, inadequate access to sanitary products, and poor school sanitation facilities that compromise their privacy, dignity, and health. The National Hygiene Baseline Survey (2014) reports that among the adolescent girls, 36% reported that they had heard about menstruation before the onset of menarche, whereas 30% women heard about menstruation before menarche. The majority of adolescent girls (50%) and women (64%) used old cloth for menstrual hygiene management. Use of disposable pads was more likely among adolescents (43%) compared to women (29%). Separate, improved and unlocked latrines were more common in secondary schools (80%) than primary (50%). Overall, 65% of co-education schools had separate, improved latrines for boys and girls which were unlocked for use at any time during school hours. However, fewer latrines had water and soap available. Availability of water and soap at unlocked latrines was 39%¹². Students frequently cited inadequate sanitary facilities including washrooms and clean water. 47% of schools lacked separate functioning toilets for girls, and 27% lacked a safe water source¹³. The Bangladeshi government has declared that 25-30% of project resources will be invested in affected host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The complex humanitarian situation in Cox's Bazar has created risks for Rohingya/FDMN community particularly affecting women, adolescents, and children. Social instability, limited access to basic services, and deep-rooted gender norms have increased the vulnerability to gender-based violence and child protection concerns. At the same time, the adolescents in the host community were deprived of sanitation facilities and awareness. Good Neighbors Bangladesh identified a critical gap in community-based support systems and protection services. The lack of awareness around reproductive health and harmful cultural practices further undermines the well-being of women and girls. Children are increasingly affected by psychosocial distress due to unstable living conditions and reduced support structures. In this context, interventions from 2017 to 2024 focus on prevention, response, and community empowerment. By integrating psychosocial support and awareness activities, Good Neighbors Bangladesh addressed both immediate and long-term protection needs in camp and infrastructure construction and awareness raising in host community in collaboration with local actors ensuring sustainability and cultural sensitivity.

11. The REVA-5 Summary Report 2022

12. National Hygiene Survey 2018

13. USAID Rapid Education and Risk Analysis Cox's Bazar, 2018.

1.2 About Good Neighbors Bangladesh:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh is an international humanitarian development organization established in August 1996, dedicated to improving the lives of children, women, and youths through education, protection, health, sanitation, economic security, community development, and disaster relief initiatives. Initially, Good Neighbors Bangladesh focused on meeting the needs of disadvantaged children through daycare centers, schools, and hostels serving poor families. Over time, it expanded to include women's self-help groups, income generation, and comprehensive community development programs. Currently, Good Neighbors Bangladesh operates in 13 districts of Bangladesh with 17 community development projects and 5 specialized projects, mobilizing approximately 20,000 children, 38,000 women, 2,000 volunteers, and 300 community health workers annually. It maintains partnerships with international organizations such as the UN World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate change, health, education, and livelihood development. The organization's strategic objectives encompass environmental sustainability, education and protection, public health, and livelihood development, with a special focus on child rights, gender equality, and community empowerment. Also contributes to achieving multiple Sustainable Development-Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through their interventions.

1.3 Interventions in Cox's Bazar:

Since the onset of the Rohingya influx in 2017, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has been actively responding to humanitarian needs in Cox's Bazar, particularly focusing on emergency relief for Rohingya/FDMN child protection and gender-based violence (GBV). From 2018, it implemented GBV project along with psychosocial support, case management and awareness activities and operated 3 child friendly spaces and 2 women friendly spaces in camp 14,15,16. Later they implemented their integrated child protection and GBV project in 2019 in partnership with UNICEF. Parallely, Good Neighbors Bangladesh initiated host community development projects emphasizing infrastructure improvement and awareness-raising in collaboration with local government. From 2020 they operate multiple Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres, women friendly spaces to provide awareness services, case management, child protection awareness and psychosocial support. Their interventions involve mobilizing women, men, adolescent girls, and boys through gender-transformative group education programs such as Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) and Girl Shine for women and girls, and awareness sessions for men and boys both within community settings and educational settings. Those projects engaged the community influential persons such as religious leaders, to challenge harmful practices and promote positive social norms and violence-free in Rohingya/FDMN community. Good Neighbors Bangladesh approach incorporated survivors-centered principles which ensure confidentiality, dignity, safety and timely response along with potential attempts to reduce GBV and strengthening the community base child protection mechanism. Projects follow multi-sectoral coordination and socio-ecological frameworks addressing GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response through community-based protection mechanisms. To date, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has supported over 136,956 women, girls, men, and boys with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, child protection and response services in Rohingya/FDMN camp.

Chronological Summary of Key Interventions in Camp and Host Community:

Year	Project Name	Major Activities	Project duration
2017	Emergency Relief for FDMN	Emergency Relief	Oct 2017- Nov 2017
2018	GBV Project	Gender Base Violence. PSS, Case Management, Awareness	Jan 2018- Feb 2018
2018-2019	GBV Project	Gender Base Violence. PSS, Case Management, Awareness	Sep 2018- Aug 2019
	Child Friendly Space	PSS, Case Management, Awareness	Sep 2018- Mar 2019
2019-2020	GBV Project	Gender Base Violence. PSS, Case Management, Awareness	Mar 2019- Jul 2020
	Provide Support to Ensuring Learning Friendly School Environment.	MHM awareness, Toilet construction for host community support	Nov 2019- Oct 2020
	5 MPCAC/Child Protection Program	PSS, CM, peace building, CP Awareness	Dec 2019- Dec 2020
2020	Specialized service center for gender-based victims of Persecution's women & adolescent girls of displaced refugees	Gender Base Violence. PSS, Case Management, Awareness	Apr 2020 - Oct 2020
	Host community support under UNICEF PD	House construction for Homeless people	May 2020- Nov 2020
2020-2021	Provide Support to Ensuring Learning Friendly School Environment.	MHM awareness, Toilet construction for host community support	Aug 2020- Jan 2021
2021	5 MPCAC/Child Protection Program	GBV. PSS, CM, PP, CP Awareness	Jan 2021- Dec 2021
	Host community support under UNICEF PD	MHM awareness, Toilet and Rest room.	Jul 2021- Dec 2021
2021-2022	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Oct 2021- Apr 2022

2022	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Jun 2022- Nov 2022
	5 MPCAC/Child Protection Program	GBV. PSS, CM, peace building, CP Awareness	Jan 2022-Dec 2022
	Host community support under UNICEF PD	MHM awareness, Toilet and Rest room.	May 2022- Dec 2022
2023	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, CM, MHM Awareness	Jan 2023- Jul 2023
2023-2024	07 MPCAC/Child Protection & GBV Program	GBV. PSS, CM, PP, CP Awareness	Jan 2023- Dec 2024
	Host community support under UNICEF PD	MHM awareness, Toilet and Rest room.	Jul 2023-Dec 2024
	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Jul 2023- Jan 2024
	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Aug 2023 - Jul 2024
	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Jan 2023 - Dec 2024
2024	GBV Project Rohingya and Host community	GBV. PSS, Case Management, MHM Awareness	Jan 2024 - Jan 2025

Table 1: Chronological summary of key intervention in camp and host community

Through community-based protection groups, survivor-centered approaches, and inclusive gender-transformative programming, Good Neighbors Bangladesh fosters safer, more resilient communities. Continued collaboration with local authorities and international partners ensures sustainability and effective humanitarian response.



Good Neighbors Bangladesh Response at a Glance:

Year	Program	Working Area	Rohingya /Host	Beneficiary
2017	Emergency Relief	Ukhiya	Camp (14,15,16)	15,190
2018	WFS/CFS	Ukhiya	Camp (14,15,16)	5,360
2019	WFS/CFS	Ukhiya	Camp (14,15,16)	2,000
2020	CP & WASH	Ramu, Ukhiya, Chokoria, Kutubdia , Cox's Sadar	Camp (14,15,16) & Host (5 Upazilas)	45,490
2021	CP, GBV, House	Ramu, Ukhiya, Chokoria, Cox's Bazar (Sadar)	Camp (14,15,16) & Host (4 Upazilas)	33,365
2022	CP, GBV, WASH	Ukhiya, Pekua, Sadar	Camp (14,15,16) & Host (3 Upazilas)	60,708
2023	CP, GBV, WASH	Ukhiya, Eidgaon, Moheshkhali & Sadar	Camp (15,16) and Host (4 Upazilas)	39,388
2024	CP, GBV, WASH	Ukhiya, Eidgaon, Pekuya, Moheshkhali, Chokoria & Sadar	Camp (15,16) and Host (4 Upazilas)	41,443
TOTAL				242,944

Table 2: Response status of Good Neighbors Bangladesh

1.4 Objectives of this Assignment:

The objectives of the impact study were following

- To identify the outcomes of Gender Based Violence, Child Protection Projects and Host community interventions of Good Neighbors Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar.
- To make an understanding of the gaps and future needs in the sector of Gender Based Violence, Child Protection and Host community intervention.



2. TECHNICAL APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Approach Design:

The impact study carried out a qualitative approach to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of the interventions of Rohingya/FDMN and host community. The data collection was carefully aligned with the study's objectives and specific interventions of the project to ensure a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the study goals and overall impact of project. The study successfully captured insights on the implementation approach, achievements of the interventions, changes, gap and future needs within the GBV, child protection and host community interventions. To achieve this, the study employed a combination of three key data collection tools Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant Interview and informal in-depth interviews that contributed to the development of case stories. By integrating FGDs, KIIs, observation, the study design effectively balanced depth and breadth, providing a holistic and multi-dimensional understanding of the project interventions and their impact. The study team assessed the findings in line with the evaluation criteria, focusing on Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. These criteria stand for:

- Effectiveness : To what extent were the objectives achieved? What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
- Efficiency : Did we get the most (and best) results for our inputs?
- Impact : Did the project bring about change in the lives of the people and their communities?
- Sustainability : Did the project create ownership and bring long lasting changes?

With the criteria, the study team kept focusing on the performance of the project by evaluating the quality of the interventions and the aspects of accountability.

2.2 Study Timeline:

The study was conducted over a two-month period (March 2025 to April 2025), covering several stages: desk review, methodology development, data collection, data analysis, and report preparation. The field data collection phase was carried out over 15 days from 10th March to 25th March of 2025. During this time, primary data was gathered via group discussions, informal interviews, key informant interviews and observations. This structured timeline ensured a systematic approach to achieve the study objectives while maintaining efficiency and accuracy in data collection and interpretation. The remaining duration was allocated to data processing, validation, and compilation of findings into a comprehensive report.

2.3 Study Sites and Population:

The study carried out in Cox's bazar district focusing on the Rohingya/FDMN people living in refugee camps (14,15,16) within the Ukhiya Upazila. The study also included the host community population living in another upazila of the Cox's Bazar district. The primary target population were women, adolescent girls (12-18), community and religious leaders. Furthermore, the study engaged project staff, government, NGO representatives and stakeholders participating in the interventions.

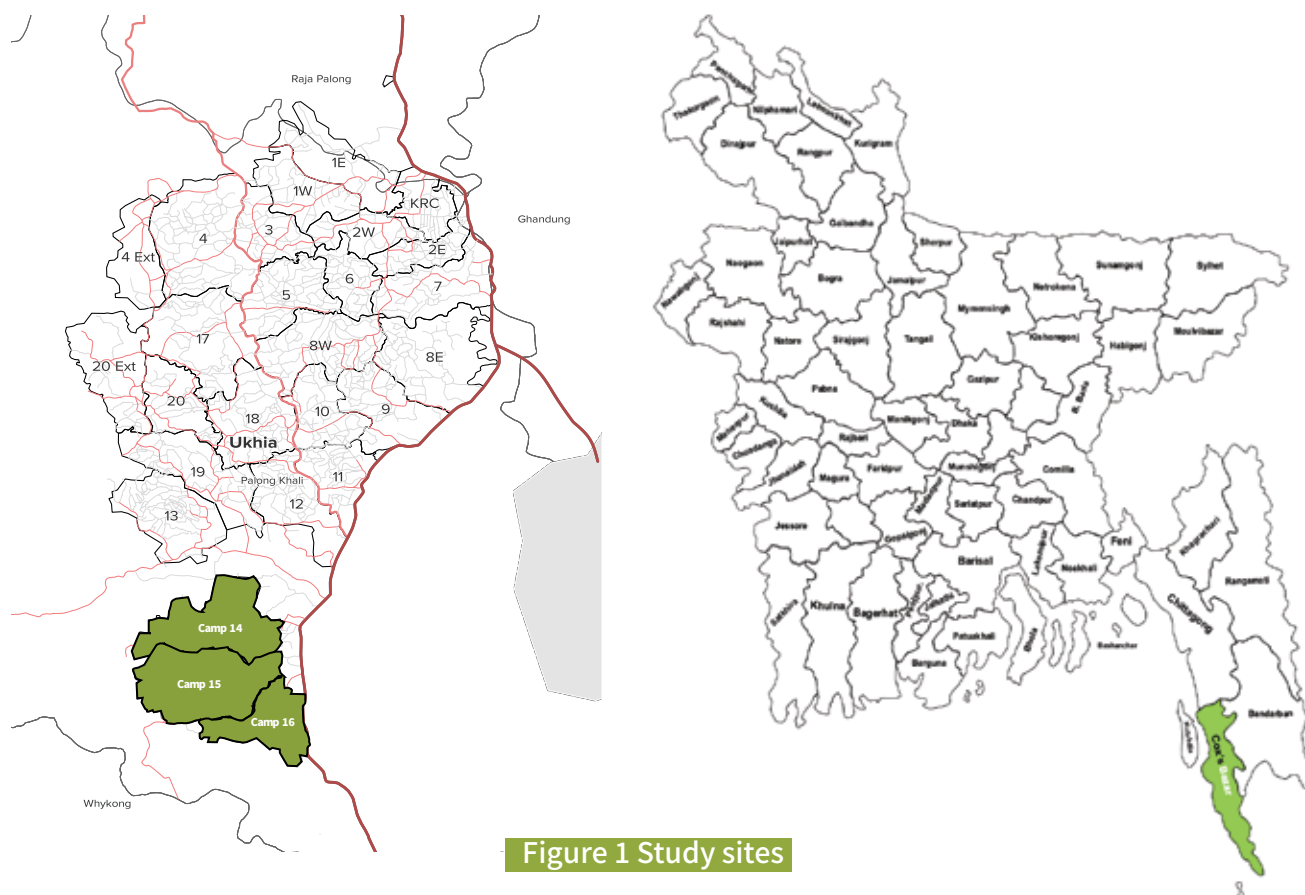


Figure 1 Study sites

2.4 The Detailed Descriptions of the Individual Methods

2.4.1 Desk Review:

The study team conducted a comprehensive desk review, analysing key project documents, existing studies, and process-related materials to establish a strong foundational understanding. This phase involved the examination of critical documents such as the concept note, logical framework, project reports, annual reports of different phases (2017 to 2024) and project final report, combined project report, case stories, and success stories to assess project alignment with objectives and outcomes. Additionally, the desk review facilitated the development of data collection tools, techniques, and strategies for the subsequent primary research phase. By synthesizing insights from these documents, the team ensured that the research methodology was well-informed and contextually relevant.

2.4.2 Qualitative Sample Size Distribution:

A purposive sampling method was used to collect qualitative data to reach the targeted respondents. The purposive sampling approach helped to focus on individuals who were likely to provide valuable insights into the project impact. Qualitative data was captured through FGDs, KIIs, and case studies in this study. These tools allowed the study team to engage with groups of beneficiaries, facilitating a deeper understanding of their shared experiences and perspectives. Qualitative data allowed us to generate in-depth knowledge about changes made by the project among beneficiaries. The following table outlines the proposed sample sizes for the FGDs and KIIs within the project area, and it helps to visualize the distribution of the sample across different methods.

	Respondent Category	Number	Remarks
KII	District Commissioner of Cox's Bazar	1	
	Upazila Nirbahi Officer	2	
	Representative of UNICEF	1	
	Representative of RRRC	1	
	Camp In-Charge	1	
	Representative of Sub-sectors	2	
	Majhi	2	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	School Management Committee	2	Host Community
	School Head Teacher	2	Host Community
	Good Neighbors Staff	2	
FGD	Rohingya Women group	2	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	Rohingya Adolescent group	2	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	Host Community Adolescent group	2	Host Community
Case Story	Rohingya Community Women	4	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	Rohingya Adolescent	4	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	Rohingya Children	4	Rohingya/FDMN Community
	Host communities (adolescent)	2	Host Community

Table 3: Qualitative sample size distribution

2.4.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

A total of six Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with women and adolescent groups from both the Rohingya/FDMN Community and host community. Participants were purposively selected based on their relevance to the study objectives, with 6–8 individuals per FGD to ensure diverse perspectives while maintaining manageable group dynamics. Each FGD lasted approximately 60–90 minutes, allowing sufficient time for in-depth discussions while minimizing participant fatigue. Sessions were held in private, neutral, quiet settings like participant's house/school corridor in the host community and WFS, MPCAC in Rohingya/FDMN Community camp areas. These settings ensured confidentiality and comfort for the participants. Discussions were conducted in the participants' preferred language (Chittagonian language: Comprehensible language for camp residents) by the trained and experienced female moderators. Most of the FGDs were audio recorded with prior consent (verbal and written) from all participants. In addition, field notes from the moderator and notetaker captured non-verbal data and contextual information. The study team developed semi-structured guidelines to explore community perception and experience about the intervened projects. The guide included open-ended questions and probing techniques to encourage in-depth discussion and explore themes related to GBV and child protection.

2.4.4 Key Informant Interview (KII):

A series of Key informant Interviews (KII)s were conducted with different stakeholders including community leaders, government officials and representatives from non-government organizations (NGOs) and development partners. These informants were purposively selected to gather expert insights on the projects impact, specifically in addressing GBV prevention, child protection and host community interventions. The KIIs aimed to assess the effectiveness of the interventions. The interviews were conducted in a conversational yet structured manner, allowing for open-ended responses and in-depth exploration of the participants' perspectives.

All interviews were audio-recorded with prior consent from the interviewees, and detailed field notes were taken to capture contextual information and non-verbal cues. Most of the Key Informant interviews were conducted by lead researcher and trained staff, ensuring a professional and respectful environment for the informants.

2.4.5 Observation and Field Visits:

During field visits the team conducted direct observations to the project key locations and facilitate interaction or informal discussion with community members to capture qualitative insights from the local experience and challenges. The observation was not followed by any structured checklist rather, a systematic record of photographic documentation was used to provide visual evidence and helped to understand the effectiveness and impact of the intervention such as infrastructure and accessibility.

2.4.6 Qualitative Data Processing and Analysis:

The qualitative field team made an audio recording of the interviews. Researchers also took illustrative notes while the study subject were subjected to an audio recording; after returning from the field, they expanded the notes data in detail. Research team summarized the KIIs and FGDs based on a word format in Bengali. The team prepared an excel data matrix based on the summaries. Interpretation of the summary was done based on the major themes of the study and objective of the study in English. The field team also took notes of any important and related issues that occurred during the field visits.

2.4.7 Integrated Local Context:

During data collection, the team ensured the relevancy, accuracy, and data have a reflection of the local environment or context. During data collection, the enumerators were aware of cultural norms, values, and practices which helped to tailor the appropriate local issues and challenges. Recruiting the enumerators to know the local (Chittagonian) language and appropriate communication through local dialogue helped the study team build trust and ensure that the data reflects the local context.

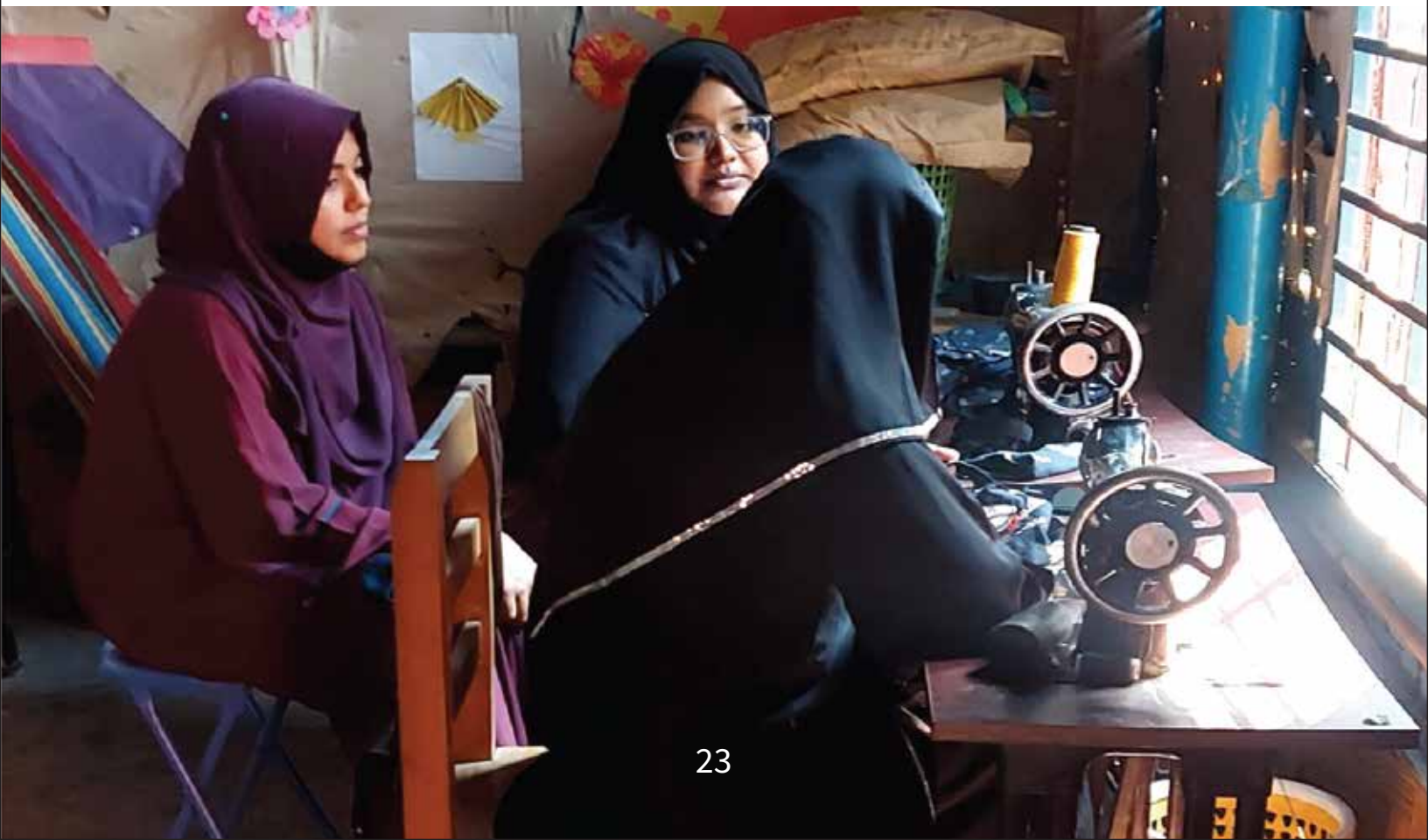
2.5 Ethics and Safeguarding:

As part of the research ethics and safeguarding process, which involved protecting human subjects written informed consent was obtained from all the participants. Phrases were included in the written consent form for recording the interviews and group discussions, and to capture some necessary action pictures during the data collection activities. Additionally, verbal consent was obtained from the participants during the recording interviews and group discussions, and while capturing any pictures. The participants had the freedom to decline participation or to withdraw from the study at any time after participation. Confidentiality of information was strictly maintained and access to the data was restricted within the research team members.

All respondents were assigned a unique identifier, which was used in place of any identifying information to protect the identity of participants. Names and contact information were collected solely for the purpose of re- contacting participants for the follow-up and kept hidden during analysis. No names were used in any publication, report, or presentation resulting from the study. Once all data analysis was completed, all personally identifying information was deleted from the datasets.



3. FINDINGS AND RESULT



3.1 Demographic Introduction of Study Respondents:

The study included a total of 70 participants comprising adult female, adolescent girls and transgenders from the camp and host community. While the primary target population of the study was women and adolescent girls, but the project interventions had followed a gender-inclusiveness approach and ensured that transgender individuals also directly benefited from the interventions. Their inclusion in this study provided valuable insights into diverse impact of the projects. The table below presents the breakdown of participants by number and age:

Category	Number
Adult Females	30
Adolescent Girls	38
Transgender Participants	2
Total	70
Age	Number
12 to 17	38
18 to 25	20
26-40	8
41-65	4
Total	70

3.2 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Overview:

During the reporting period from 2020 to 2024, the project has made significant progress in strengthening child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services across targeted communities. A gradual increase in outreach and quality of services reflects the team's strong engagement with community structures, children, adolescents, and caregivers.

In psychosocial support (PSS), a total of 17,509 children, adolescents, and parents/caregivers received structured and non-structured psychosocial support services in 2023–2024, marking a steady increase from 9,428 in 2020 and 5,491 in 2021. This consistent improvement highlights the project's growing capacity to address the mental health and emotional well-being of affected populations. Similarly, 7,077 parents and caregivers were reached with positive parenting guidance in 2023–2024, up from 3,175 in 2021, promoting safer and more nurturing family environments.

The project also continued to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms. A total of 105 CBCPC members were trained in 2023–2024 on child protection, referrals, and their roles and responsibilities, compared to 75 in 2021. These trained members play a critical role in identifying, referring, and responding to child protection concerns at the community level.

Under case management, 1,675 children and adolescents received individual case management services in 2023–2024, ensuring that vulnerable children received appropriate and timely support. Additionally, 38,010 individuals received information related to child protection risk and mitigation measures during the same period, a significant leap from 18,812 in 2020 — reflecting the effectiveness of the community awareness approach.

Regarding adolescent development, 4,237 adolescents completed life skills-based education in 2023–2024, compared to 1,700 in 2020. This achievement demonstrates the project's sustained commitment to empower adolescents with knowledge and resilience skills. Furthermore, 2,153

beneficiaries participated in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) sessions, reinforcing awareness and accountability within the community. Efforts in GBV prevention and response have also expanded. A total of 14,976 adolescent boys and girls received information on GBV prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and 6,418 individuals (women, men, girls, and boys) participated in GBV prevention interventions in 2023–2024. Meanwhile, 693 women and girls who experienced GBV were reached through social work services and referrals, demonstrating improved response mechanisms compared to previous years. In addition, 2,643 adolescent girls received dignity kits, ensuring personal hygiene and protection during emergencies.

In terms of emergency child protection and disaster preparedness, 200 affected families received life-saving support, and 7 MPCACs were reinforced or renovated as part of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures. These initiatives enhanced community resilience and created safer spaces for children during crises.

Overall, from 2020 to 2024, the project demonstrated remarkable progress in expanding the reach and effectiveness of its child protection and GBV interventions. The consistent growth across all indicators reflects strong community engagement, effective capacity-building of local structures, and a sustained focus on creating safe and protective environments for children, adolescents, and their caregivers.

Indicator-based Performance Summary (2020–2024):

SL	Indicator	Unit	2023-2024	2022	2021	2020
1	Number of children, adolescents and parents/caregivers provided with structured/non-structured psychosocial support services	People	17,509	7,510	5,491	9,428
2	Number of parents and caregivers reached with positive parenting guidance	People	7,077	4,000	3,175	8,007
3	Number of Community Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) members who received training on child protection, referrals and on their roles and responsibilities	People	105	100	75	119
4	Number of children and adolescents who have received individual case management.	People	1,675	1,852	1,166	1,301
5	Number of individuals who received information related to child protection risk and mitigation measures	People	38,010	2,823	2,125	18,812
6	Number of adolescents who completed the life skills-based curriculum	People	4,237	1,200	605	1,700

7	Number of beneficiaries reached with PSEA session	People	2,153	400	-	-
8	Number of adolescent boys and girls who received information related to GBV prevention and response, including on SRHR	People	14,976	14,440	15,239	-
9	Number of women, men, girls and boys participating in GBV prevention interventions	People	6,418	3,631	3,820	-
10	Number of women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence reached by social work services including referrals	People	693	-	175	143
11	Number of adolescent girls provided with dignity kits	People	2,643	2,300	-	-
12	Number of affected children's families who received life-saving child protection support during emergency situations	People	200	200	100	-
13	Number of MPCAC	Centre	7	5	5	5

Table 4: Indicator-based Performance Summary (2020-2024)

3.2.1 Awareness and Attitudes Shift Towards GBV:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh delivered GBV services in the Rohingya/FDMN Community camps 14, 15 and 16 through 3 established WFS and Safe Space for Women and Girls (SSWG) and adjacent host community schools. To address gender-based violence, the project mobilized women, men, adolescent boys and girls for group education following gender transformative approaches. Adolescent girls and women participated in GBV structured program (EMAP and Girl shine) in the WFS, SSWG, MPCAC for women and girls including in community setting. Adolescent boys and men were also engaged in GBV structured interventions as well as awareness sessions on GBV risk, conducted through group-based awareness session and in the educational institute after their academic classes.

The impact study pursues to assess the outcome of these interventions through interviews and group discussion. Men, women, boys and girls participated in group based GBV awareness sessions, dialogues and community campaigns to reduce gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls that delivered through MPCAC, WFS and SSWG as part of an integrated approach, ensuring continuous implementation efforts. In addition to the participants, the study also interviewed Imam (religious leaders) who were also mobilized to reflect on harmful practices and advocate for promotion of negative social norms and violence free families and communities. Raising awareness on GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights among the women and girls in the camps and host community were key focus area of Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions. The outcome of these efforts was the enhanced awareness of GBV and SRHR that contributed to a reduction in GBV risk in both camps and host community.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh carried out a variety of activities to address GBV in the camp. The interventions included adolescent girls and women and conducted household visits to assess their needs. Awareness sessions were organized both indoors and outdoors, targeting both females and males, along with both genders to discuss GBV-related issues. The initiative also offered case management services, and recreational activities to engage adolescent girls and women. Additionally, the initiative provided Psychological Support Services (PSS), including individual and group counselling, and facilitated a referral pathway to ensure that participants received comprehensive support. These efforts aimed to create a safer and more supportive environment for women and girls, while also involving the broader community in addressing and preventing GBV.

It also conducted awareness session with adolescent girls through group-based sessions at the school in the host community and in the camps on different issues like awareness session against GBV, case management, child marriage, menstrual hygiene management including sexual reproductive health. As there are many aspects of violence were present in the camps. A Rohingya/FDMN Community woman expressed in interview:

Generally, women face more incidents of violence from their husbands and in-laws. They are subjected to physical violence through beatings and mental violence through abusive language. Women are also harassed by shameful comments from their mothers-in-law. One of my sisters was a victim of physical and mental abuse within her family. I also went through a lot of suffering earlier.

The awareness session against GBV significantly raised the level of awareness and knowledge the girls and women in host community and camps regarding the pervasive nature of both physical and mental abuse faced by women, particularly within the family structure. The participants point to violence from husbands and in-laws, including physical beatings and verbal abuse, often coupled with shameful remarks from mothers-in-law.

The awareness session on preventing GBV promoted community-based approach of raising awareness level, helped to bring change in community perception, knowledge, attitude, and practices to the issues related to GBV. This worked as a reduction of risk of GBV, risk associated with menstrual hygiene and strengthened the preventive action among the community. Good Neighbors Bangladesh provided a comprehensive awareness on various important topics besides gender-based violence, health, and social issues. In the focus group discussions, adolescent girls from the host areas actively participated and shared their views on gender-based violence and related issues.

- Respondent-2 : Good Neighbors Bangladesh discussed how to use the pad and how often to change it
- Respondent-3 : We learnt about physical health, physical and mental abuse.
- Respondent-4 : They (Good Neighbors Bangladesh) discussed child marriage also.
- Respondent-5 : We were told about how to keep ourselves away from drug addicts, and then we were given knowledge about how parents in the family differentiate between boys and girls, treating them differently, and not doing that.
- Respondent-6 : We discussed physical and mental abuse.
- Respondent-7 : We discussed violence against children, sexual harassment.

Respondents highlighted lessons on the proper use of sanitary pads and personal hygiene, as well as discussions on physical and mental abuse. The adolescent group gained knowledge regarding to harmful practice of child marriage and the need for equitable treatment between boys and girls in families. Furthermore, the respondents were aware about the dangers of drug addiction, violence against children, and sexual harassment after participating the awareness session. This reflects a broad approach by Good Neighbors Bangladesh to address both individual and societal issues impacting women, children, and the community.

Beside this basic knowledge the awareness raising session, it had greatly increased the in depth understanding on different forms of violence against women. This extensive education on GBV helped to bring the change in their perspective and understanding regarding gender base violence. Following this, the women and adolescent girls abled to connect the knowledge the violence forms with the different practical event of their life. In a group discussion the voice of adolescent girls reflected like following-

Respondent-6: Physical violence means physical torture or beating. When someone acts sexually against my consent, it is sexual violence. For example, sometimes they (male) touch me, in many ways without my permission.

Respondent-2: Emotional violence is when someone talks to me in a hurtful way or when my husband abuses me. When I feel disturbed in my mind, if I cannot trust anyone, it hurts a lot. This is called emotional violence. When my parents abuse me or scold me or if I fight with someone, that also falls under this violence.

Respondent-1: Socio-economic violence means, for example, I worked hard to get chickens and ducks, earned money, or got a job. But my husband took that money. He gambled with it or did something that he should not do, and he did not give me my money either, that is economic violence.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh conducted awareness sessions with adolescents, parents and community people thorough group-based sessions at the host community which include introductory knowledge on different aspects of violence, issues related to violence prevention and action after facing violence. They expressed how they perceived violence after attending the awareness session. An adolescent girl from the host community expressed-

Violence means oppressing a person, depriving them of their rights, beating them, physically or mentally harming them. To mentally harm someone is to say something repeatedly, such as bullying, abusing them, demotivating them. Violence against women is torturing women somewhere or at home or at workplace for some reason.

A woman from the host community said-

A woman can be harassed in various ways on her movement, many boys whistle at them, especially women are harassed by boys. After marriage, the husband beats her, pressures her for dowry, makes her listen to various things from the in-laws' house.

These statements reflect a nuanced awareness of GBV, moving beyond physical abuse: sound understanding on different forms of violence helped to reduce the risk become a victim of gender base violence in their family and society. It demonstrates that the respondents have understood that GBV as a multidimensional issue, not just isolated acts of aggression. Additionally, the session was enriched the knowledge of responding to GBV and available services as well its referral pathway for the participants. It is indicating the area of intervention of prevention and risk mitigation by the Good Neighbors Bangladesh.

In camp setting beside the women and adolescent girls, the interventions had multilevel coordination for the protection of survivor. Like Majhi were also reached through the intervention. One of the head Majhi expressed about the Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Here, they have conducted various sessions on violence against women. Women were present there. They taught what to do if violence is committed against them. In addition, sessions are also conducted for men, they are made to understand about violence against women. They should not do such things, should not beat their wives, should not create distance with their wives. After attending the sessions, they understood. Many of them(male) promised to not commit violence anymore. Thus, the male and female were included in the program GBV program.

The efforts of Good Neighbors Bangladesh in addressing violence against women through awareness sessions in the community, specifically in Camp 15, Block G they conducted separate sessions for women and men, focusing on educating women about their rights and actions to take if they face violence, while also sensitizing men to discourage abusive behavior, such as domestic violence and emotional torture. The inclusion of both genders in the GBV program indicates a holistic and multi-level approach to changing attitudes and behaviors and reducing gender-based violence in camp. In the group discussion a woman in the camp said-

One of an acquaintance whose husband used to beat her. Later, we talk to him and take her to the Majhi, the Majhi solved the problem. If in some case the dispute were something bigger, we suggest them to go to the CIC. Though everyone come to WFS first. Here our apa(counsellor) talk nicely and discuss about the matter with both man and women thus they solve the case here.

The statement illustrates a community-based approach to addressing domestic violence and disputes. The respondent describes how a woman who was experiencing physical abuse from her husband was helped by community intervention, initially through discussions with the husband and the Majhi, which led to the resolution of the issue. For more serious disputes, referring to the camp in -charge (CiC), highlighting a layered support system. The WFS played a pivotal role in addressing such issues by providing a safe space where trained counsellors facilitated open and respectful dialogues between the involved parties, allowing for conflict resolution in a supportive and neutral environment. This process reflects the importance of mediation and community involvement in addressing gender-based violence and fostering reconciliation. One Majhi shared how GBV cases are addressed:

If there is any violence anywhere, the Good Neighbors volunteer first comes and writes the case. Then they tried to explain/solve by talking with them. If the matter is not resolved, it goes to the CiC. If there was any rape (sexual violence) case it went to the CiC sir immediately, or if someone tried to hide it, the Good Neighbors volunteer filed the case and sends it to the CiC sir/head office.

This statement of local leader outlines the structured response mechanism implemented by Good Neighbors Bangladesh to address cases of violence, particularly GBV, in the community. It ensures accountability, victim support, emphasizing referral pathway quality service for survivors. It highlights a clear, step-by-step approach where Good Neighbors Bangladesh volunteers were the first responders, documenting the incident and attempting to resolve the issue through direct communication with the involved parties. Additionally, the statement emphasizes that the volunteers actively worked to prevent any attempts to cover up the crime, ensuring that all cases, especially sensitive ones like sexual violence, were properly reported and sent to the proper authorities.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has taken proactive steps to address and prevent gender-based violence in the host community through a multifaceted approach. Their efforts focus on

In the host community, we also worked on how to prevent gender-based violence, how to handle it if there is a problem, and then created some materials that helped to prevent gender-based violence. In addition, we had a program in the host community where GBV was explained, such as the possible causes of violence against women, how to prevent it, what to do if there is violence somewhere, and where to go. We talked about gender-based violence in target communities, who were the victims of this, how to prevent it, and what the role of teachers is in this case. What is the role of community people, and the role of students, all these issues were discussed. In addition, we held parent meetings in each educational institution.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh not only concentrated on addressing GBV within the camps but also made comprehensive efforts to tackle it in host communities through awareness campaigns and multi-stakeholder engagement. These efforts encompassed both prevention strategies and response mechanisms, alongside the development of educational materials to reinforce key messages. The initiative involved detailed discussions on the roles of different community members, such as teachers, students, parents, and residents with a strong emphasis on collective responsibility in preventing and addressing GBV.

No Silence: How I Would confront to GBV

“If I see a woman being beaten by her husband somewhere in the camp, I will try to bring her from that place. For that I will take someone older with me, since I am young, he will not listen to me. If the elder person explains then, he (husband) will understand. I will also inform to Majhi. The Majhi will come, and hope solve the problem or take other necessary steps. I will also come to Shantikhana (WFS), I will come here and share it to the apa (counsellor). If need I will also go to the officer at CiC office.”

This statement of an adolescent girl from the camp reflects the effectiveness of the program in spreading comprehensive referral pathways and its multi-sectoral approach, which involves collaboration with community leaders and institutional support. Seeking support from WFS (Shantikhana) and possibly reporting the issue to the CIC office further shows the participant's awareness of available resources and the support network in place. The actions plan of the adolescent highlights the sustainable awareness and courage foster by the project, indicating that it has successfully equipped adolescents with the tools to take action in such situations. This validates Good Neighbors Bangladesh investment in building awareness, strengthening referral pathways, and empowering youth to act. It also reflects community-based approach, which emphasizes local capacity to manage and sustain responses to GBV, ensuring long-term effectiveness through community-driven solutions.

The issue of GBV remains a significant challenge, despite various efforts and interventions aimed at reducing it. While some significant progress has been made, community leaders and stakeholders emphasize that the fight against GBV requires continuous and sustained engagement.

In an interview Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) officer expressed-

Good Neighbors Bangladesh had good effort on GBV reduction, and the number was declined very well in those periods. But All I can say is that it still exists. Gender-based violence till exists here, we are trying hard to reduce it. If such community-based program no longer exists in camp, how long, we work to reduce violence?

Head Majhi from the camp said about the noting improvement of GBV due to the interventions-

If Good Neighbors Bangladesh hold more sessions and meetings, GBV can be prevented in camps. For example, suppose the number of cases has decreased due to the meetings or awareness sessions. Earlier, there was 100 out of 100 cases of violence and misunderstandings at home. But now it has reduced. Now there are some case also present. Good Neighbors Bangladesh should continue the session and program for our good well-being.

The statements underscore both the progress and ongoing challenges in addressing GBV within the community. While Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made significant step in reducing the incidence of GBV, as noted by the decline in cases, the issue persists. The RRRC officer emphasize that GBV remain a concern and also questioning how effective sustainable progress can be sustained without community-based program. Secondly the head majhi said about the positive impact about awareness session with reduction of GBV cases over time. Despite some remaining cases, the speaker advocates for the continuation of these programs to further improvement and underline the importance of continues efforts and community engagement in tackling GBV.

One UNICEF staff was expressed about the Good Neighbors Bangladesh intervention in camp-

Good Neighbors Bangladesh works with everyone, so everyone knows them and about their work. Previously, if there was a problem (GBV), this office was the only one to come to, but now, after the centre closes, you have to go straight to the CiC office.

The stakeholder notes that the closure of some WFS centres has shifted the reliance to formal systems, such as the CiC. While this indicates some progress, it also underscores the ongoing need for sustained support. At the same time, it can be said because of the long-term interventions the response systems remain accessible, effective, and community driven.

It has made significant impact in reducing GBV in Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities through structured interventions, awareness sessions, and multi-stakeholder engagement. However, the study highlights the need for sustained efforts. The endorsement from community leaders, Key informants and participants underscores Good Neighbors Bangladesh's intervention, emphasizing that long-term engagement is crucial to ensuring the impact for the long run.

3.2.2 Transforming Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence:

Culturally, in the Rohingya/FDMN community, there was an expectation for women to silently endure domestic violence, without protest or seeking help. This norm helped to normalize the violence against women the society and make it usual that the tolerance of violence of women without reacting is a kind of responsibility. From the camp one woman said-

Our parents always told us to stay silent while our husband or any member of in-law house shout or beat us. Women should tolerate such violence without making noise. But now we understand what the violence and kind of violence. Good Neighbors Bangladesh also stay besides us in mitigate any kind of dispute among husband and wives.

This statement highlights a significant shift in the social norm surrounding domestic violence within the community. However, the change described in the statement shows the transformative impact of Good Neighbors Bangladesh in challenging this harmful norm. Through Good Neighbors Bangladesh awareness activities, women have become more informed about the types of violence they were experiencing, leading to a critical shift from passive tolerance to active awareness. The involvement of Good Neighbors Bangladesh particularly in dispute resolution between husbands and wives, further demonstrates how the intervention has empowered women to seek help and support when facing such situations.

It has effectively facilitated significant shift in social norms within the Rohingya/FDMN community through its awareness campaigns and skill development sessions. the efforts have reshaped perceptions regarding women's economic participation, menstrual hygiene, and domestic violence notably. Women's involvement in income-generating activities is now more accepted, and there has been a positive shift in attitudes toward menstruation, moving from stigma to open acceptance. Additionally, Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have empowered women to recognize and address domestic violence, shifting the community from a culture of silence to one of awareness and action.

3.2.3 Role of Community Leaders and Safe Spaces (WFS, MPCAC):

The engagement of community leaders and the establishment of safe spaces, like as Women Friendly Spaces and Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres, have played a key role in strengthening community protection in the Rohingya/FDMN camps. The involvement of Majhis, Imam (religious leaders), and local volunteers helped build a trusted environment. Survivors of gender-based violence could seek support without fear of about stigma or retaliation.

Evidence from the field indicates that community leaders were played essential role in identification and addressing of domestic disputes early on. A head Majhi explained that Good Neighbors Bangladesh volunteers frequently acted as the first responders to incidents of violence. They documented the situations and tried to resolve them at the community level before referring on unresolved or severe cases to the Camp In-Charge or higher authorities. This tiered response mechanism started with community-led mediation and moved through formal channels. It ensured accountability, lowered the number of unreported cases, and focused on protecting survivors.

Women-Friendly Spaces served as confidential hubs for psychosocial support, case management, and awareness-building on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and life skills. The centres offered structured counselling, group sessions, and recreational activities that fostered emotional resilience among women and adolescents. One women participant described the women-friendly space as the first-place women turn to when facing domestic violence. She said, "The apa (counsellor) talks nicely and discusses the matter with both the man and woman, so they solve the case here." These testimonies emphasize the important role of WFS in mediation and psychosocial healing.

Similarly, Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres addressed the emotional and developmental needs of children and adolescents through creative and recreational activities. UNICEF staff and community members observed that these centers provided important places for expression, learning, and healing. Even after some centers closed, the ongoing community efforts to have them reopened highlight their lasting impact on mental health.

Through community leadership and safe spaces, Good Neighbors Bangladesh effectively localized GBV prevention and response mechanism. These structures not only lowered the rates of domestic violence but also fostered trust, encouraged collaboration, and ensured long-term sustainability in protection services for displaced communities.

From Darkness to Light - Khadiza's Journey of Resilience

Khadiza's (not real name) (Camp 15) life took a challenging turn when she was forced into child marriage at the tender age of 16. Initially, her marriage to Sohail seemed promising, but it gradually devolved into a cycle of mental and physical abuse. Khadiza, now a mother of four, endured not only her own suffering but also the anguish of seeing her children frequently beaten by Sohail. His frequent absences, sometimes spanning weeks, exacerbated the family's distress. Whenever Khadiza confronted him, it would result in further violence.

Amidst this turmoil, a beacon of hope emerged in 2023 when Khadiza attended counseling sessions organized by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. These sessions provided her with a platform to share her struggles with empathetic female staff members. Recognizing the severity of her situation, they escalated the matter to the GBV Case Management Officer of Good Neighbors Bangladesh.

Despite initial resistance from Sohail to attend counseling, the intervention of a local leader, or majhi, facilitated his participation. The counseling sessions seemed to bring a temporary reprieve, but the abuse soon resurfaced. In response, Good Neighbors Bangladesh, with the support of the majhi, intervened decisively by taking the couple to the CIC office. There, Sohail apologized and committed to resolving their issues.

Khadiza's story illustrates the profound impact of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's initiatives. Through sustained support and intervention, Khadiza found a semblance of peace and a renewed sense of hope for her future. Her journey from darkness to light is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of compassionate intervention.

3.3 Child Protection (CP)

3.3.1 Community-Based Child Protection Service (CBCPS):

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has established a strong presence in the Rohingya/FDMN camps and surrounding host communities, implementing a range of integrated services focused on Child Protection along with GBV. This includes the operation of five MPCAC for children and adolescents, where Good Neighbors Bangladesh reached children, adolescents, and parents with critical services aimed at improving child protection and reducing all forms of harmful practices. These efforts were in line with the Joint Response Plan and the UNICEF Child Protection program, both of which focus on preventing and responding to violence against children, adolescents, and women. In partnership with UNICEF, Good Neighbors Bangladesh supported the strengthening of the social service workforce and community-based protection systems to enhance prevention and response to violence. Good Neighbors Bangladesh collaborated with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to ensure effective case management and referral services, while also building the capacity of Community-Based Child Protection Committees. This involved increasing community participation and ensuring that these committees remain functional as integral components of the protective environment. Good Neighbors Bangladesh's child protection services reach children under 18 years along with their parents and community members, including people with disabilities. These services included psychosocial support (PSS), life skills training, case management, positive parenting, and outreach interventions. Additionally, formed five CBCPC with 105 members (52 male, 53 female) across the five MPCAC centers. These committees were crucial in preventing and responding to issues such as abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children (VAC). They also addressed child protection risk issues, report emerging concerns, and identify pathways for referrals. To enhance their effectiveness, CBCPC members received training on roles and responsibilities, child protection, and referrals. This training improved their ability to identify vulnerable children and create a protective environment within the community. Additionally, these committees facilitated the introduction of Good Neighbors Bangladesh services to children, acting as a vital link between the community and formal child protection services. This community-driven approach helped identify at-risk children and refer them to case management teams.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh also distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, such as leaflets with child protection messages, through the CBCPCs and engaged adolescents and youth in the camps (14, 15, and 16). Monthly meetings were held with 105 CBCPC members across seven centers, focusing on issues such as child labor, child trafficking, and gender-based violence. These sessions reached children and community members on topics including child labor, child trafficking, and peacebuilding, as well as male and female individuals on GBV issues like polygamy, trafficking, and dowry. One adolescent girl from the camp-

The sessions brought significant changes to my life, enabling me to speak confidently about myself, assist others, and understand topics such as how to say no when I have disagreements and the difference between safe and unsafe touch. These learnings have become tools that apply in my daily life.

Another participant, an adolescent girl from Rohingya/FDMN camp noted that girls and young women are the main victims of trafficking. She expressed-

It's shocking news that they sold girls and women for bad work and sometimes they demanded money if victim's family did not agree to pay then they beat them. This information is valuable for me as now I am more aware of the consequences and reason why girls and women are trafficked. It's also informative that we should take care of ourselves like taking a bath, eating nutritious food, take resting. Besides, if we wear clothes, it should be cleaned and dried well with soap and good water. I have benefited from knowing these. I usually talk about these in my spare time with my friends, so that they can also know that.

Overall, Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have significantly strengthened the community-based protection mechanisms, thanks to the active involvement of CBCPCs and religious leaders. Religious leaders, including Imams, participated in meetings and sessions to mobilize community support for child protection issues, particularly through discussions during Friday sermons (khutba). These efforts have increased community engagement in identifying and supporting vulnerable children, creating a more supportive and protective environment. By linking community-led structures to formal child protection services, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has facilitated better identification of at-risk children and improved the referral process, fostering a more effective and holistic response to child protection and GBV in the camps and host communities.

3.3.2 Case Management Services:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has significantly enhanced accessibility to quality case management services, providing both direct and referral services in accordance with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standards. The interventions trained professional case management officers, ensuring that vulnerable children and families receive comprehensive and responsive support. Good Neighbors Bangladesh provided child protection case management services to a total of 840 children in camp including

boys & girls, and children with disabilities (CwD), children with disabilities in gender-specific categories (CwDG). These services helped mitigate risks and fostered a child-friendly environment, enabling the children to live more normal lives, attend vocational training, engage in self-resilience activities, and improve their mental health and well-being. By addressing various child protection risks—such as child marriage, child labor, trafficking, corporal punishment, drug addiction, and road accidents, the case management services worked at both the family and community levels to raise awareness and reduce these risks through early identification and intervention. In this backdrop, volunteers played an essential role in supporting formal case management efforts. Volunteers raise awareness, provide initial contact points for children and families, and complement caseworkers' work in the community. As one respondent mentioned, volunteers were crucial in introducing families to the services offered, rein A key aspect of the case management approach is ensuring the active involvement of children and their families. Good Neighbors Bangladesh ensured transparency by obtaining consent before sharing information about the family or the child, further ensuring ethical service delivery forcing the importance of community engagement.

A 3.5-year-old Rohingya girl who had been subjected to abuse by her father following her mother's divorce. Rajia (not real name) was found tied down with an iron chain to prevent her from seeking refuge with her mother. Upon identification by one of Good Neighbors Bangladesh' partners, Rajia was enrolled in Good Neighbors Bangladesh's case management services, where she received psychosocial support and was immediately referred to medical services. She was later placed with a foster family and, despite challenges in reuniting with her mother, was eventually welcomed back into her care with legal support. Through consistent parenting sessions, nutritional support for malnutrition, and a stable, nurturing environment, Rajia's well-being improved significantly. She also received recreational support through Good Neighbors Bangladesh's MPC, which provided her with opportunities to connect with friends and enjoy a new life. This transformation was possible through the collaborative efforts of the Good Neighbors Bangladesh case management team, camp authorities, legal service providers, and medical and psychosocial support teams.

Caseworkers collaborated closely with children and their parents to develop personalized case plans, ensuring that support was both relevant and effective in addressing their unique needs. This approach emphasizes shared decision-making, empowering families to remain active participants in their support journey. An example of the impact of the case management services was the case of Rajia-

Overall, the effectiveness of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's case management services is evident in the results. A survey¹⁴ showed that 90.1% of participants were satisfied with the quality of child protection services provided. These achievements reflect the success of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's comprehensive approach, which includes timely and tailored services, need-based material support, and continuous follow-up to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities. By offering well-coordinated, child-centered services, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has significantly improved the overall well-being and protection of the children in the camp.

14. Satisfaction Survey on quality Child Protection Case Management services

3.3.3 Combating Child Marriage:

The Good Neighbors Bangladesh session worked to raise the awareness level of the adolescents in the host community and in the camp regarding child marriage. After attending those sessions, many adolescents now understand the impact of child marriage on their life. Furthermore, they were taught what preventive measures they can take to stop child marriage also. Adolescent expressed in group discussion-

If a girl is married before the age of 18 and a boy before the age of 21, it is called child marriage. Child marriage causes a lot of hardship for the mother in giving birth to a child. There can be various complications for the mother and the child, and they may even die. Child marriage leads to early pregnancy, which can cause excessive bleeding or result in girls suffering from anemia." If the parents want to force a child marriage, they have to be explained to them, if they do not want to understand, they have to tell the elders of the area, then the village headman, chairman, member should inform them, if they cannot stop it, then the police should be informed. In short, if the family wants to force a marriage, then the law will have to be taken.

Another adolescent girl disclosed about the negative impact of child marriage-

Child marriage means marrying off a girl before she is eighteen in the excuse of, she becomes a burden of her family. Good Neighbors taught us that it's become a heavy risk if a girl gets married before 18

The two statements provide a clear understanding of the negative consequences of child marriage and emphasize the importance of community intervention in preventing it. The first respondent discusses the harmful effects of child marriage, focusing on the physical risks it poses to young girls. These health risks highlight the dangers of early pregnancy for both the mother and the child, with the potential for fatal consequences. The respondent also stresses the importance of taking action against child marriage, suggesting that if parents insist on such a marriage, it should be reported to community leaders. The second respondent adds a societal perspective, explaining that child marriage is often justified by the belief that a girl becomes a "burden" to their family once girl reaches a certain age. However, the respondent points out that Good Neighbors Bangladesh has aware them of the risks associated with early marriage and emphasizing the dangers related to a girl's well-being.

Besides adolescents, their parents become aware after participating in the awareness session. This lets the perspective change regarding letting the daughter get married before 18 years old. Thus, the sessions helped to prevent child marriage as well mitigate the risk of GBV. One woman from host community said about the impact of early marriage-

In addition, I explaining to my daughter that early marriage has many negative impacts on reproductive health and life, I also explain to my parents (grandparents of adolescent) that if my daughter study hard then it will be useful in life for them, they will be able to do many things in life, I will not let them marry early etc. I explained it this way.

From the camp one woman also said about the awareness of child marriage-

They (Good Neighbors Bangladesh) said that if a girl marries too early, she might not understand how to manage a household, and it could be difficult for her to adjust to the rules of in-law family life. Since we started to understand these things, we now try to explain the harmful effects of child marriage to everyone, especially to the other women in my block who never participates in any session before.

These statements demonstrate the effectiveness of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's awareness programs in shifting community perspectives on child marriage through intergenerational dialogue and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. It's clear that the value of education to their parents, advocating for their daughter's future and rejecting early marriage the participants are not just absorbing information but becoming change agents, they relate child marriage discussions around practical wellbeing and life opportunities also. Women are now actively educating others, particularly women in their block, about the dangers of child marriage, encouraging wider community engagement and awareness. This is the transformative role of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's education and its ripple effect in promoting healthier, more informed decision-making in the community.

Why I do not support early marriage?

“Suppose you are on a road with thorns. The other road is very far away. Should we suffer by going on the thorny road or should we go properly even if it is far? If necessary, marriage will be delayed, that is good. Parents want to get married for the best of their child. But it does not always bring good. That is why there is no problem in getting married late. If there is trouble in the law house, it is seen that the girl comes back to her father's house. But how long will the parents tolerate the girl at home? After some days, they may find it unbearable. If the marriage is delayed longer, the parents will also be at peace, the son-in-law and the wife will also be at peace, and the in-laws will also be at peace.” This statement expressed by an adolescent girl from the camp regarding their awareness on early marriage.

Women and girls participated in group-based awareness, dialogues and in community campaigns to stop early marriage and GBV. In the women friendly space women and girls were attend issue-based awareness in the community which has taken place in their thought, and they started to think in a pragmatic way according to their culture and life. This understanding will have a long-term impact upon their life that can be identified as a catalyst of social development and success of the Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions.

One head majhi from the camp explained how the intervention helped to reduce child marriage-

Previously, girls often married before 18, but volunteers from Good Neighbors raised awareness among guardians about the health risks and harmful effects. As a result, child marriage has declined. Initially, Rohingya refugees married at 13-14, but they now understand the adverse impacts.

One Good Neighbors Bangladesh programme staff said-

If someone attempted to do child marriage, we went there and told them that they were doing child marriage which was not good for both parties, what was the negative impact of child marriage and warned them to inform the CiC office. Then they would stop it.

Above statement from a Good Neighbors Bangladesh staff member demonstrates the organization's proactive approach to combating child marriage in the camps along with GBV. They also have strategies in the prevention of early marriage through their counseling and formal mechanism. Good Neighbors Bangladesh's targeted awareness sessions have significantly shifted attitudes toward child marriage in both host and Rohingya/FDMN communities, mobilize adolescents and parents with critical knowledge on its health risks, legal consequences, and long-term impacts. Combining health-based messaging, legal awareness, and community-led intervention strategies, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has not only reduced child marriage but also endeavoured to create a culture of protection.

Julekha's Triumph Against Child Marriage

In the heart of Camp 15, Julekha's (not real name) story unfolds as a remarkable testament to the transformative power of Good Neighbors Bangladesh multi-purpose children and adolescent centre (MPCAC). Life in the camp is fraught with challenges, especially for women and girls who face restricted movement and limited opportunities. Julekha, once overwhelmed by her husband's mental illness and the sole responsibility of providing for her family, often felt trapped by societal expectations without any support. Julekha's journey towards empowerment began when she discovered Good Neighbors Bangladesh's MPCAC —safe havens where she found solace and started to rebuild her life. At the centre Julekha gained invaluable knowledge about women's health, safety, and the dangers of child marriage. As a survivor of child marriage herself, this topic struck a deep chord within her. Determined to protect her sixteen-year-old daughter from the same fate, Julekha made a resolute decision to reject early marriage proposals.

"My daughter is not ready for marriage. I will only consider it when she turns eighteen," Julekha declared firmly. Despite facing immediate backlash and mockery from some members of the community, she remained steadfast in her decision. Whenever the pressure became too much to bear, Julekha turned to the MPCAC for refuge. There, her mentor, affectionately known as Apa, provided unwavering support, listened without judgment, and reinforced her resolve. These empowering sessions at the MPCAC fortified Julekha, enabling her to safeguard her daughter's future while challenging harmful societal norms. Her quiet but powerful resistance became a source of inspiration for others in the community. Julekha's story exemplifies that significant change often begins with one person's courageous stand, declaring, "No. Not my daughter. Not this time."

Through Good Neighbors Bangladesh MPCAC, Julekha not only transformed her own life but also became a beacon of hope and empowerment for other women in the camp. This case story highlights the success of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's programs in empowering women, fostering resilience, and creating lasting change in their communities.

Courage in the Camp: Nasrin's Story of Resistance and Hope

At just 12 years old, Nasrin Fatema (not real name), a Rohingya refugee girl living in the camps of Cox's Bazar, is already a symbol of courage, leadership, and transformation. Nasrin's early life was marked by displacement and tragedy. At the age of four, she and her family fled the violence in Myanmar. During their perilous journey to Bangladesh, she lost her father to brutal torture—an experience that left a deep void in her life. The refugee camp became her home, but it came with its own set of challenges, especially for girls like Nasrin. In the camp, child marriage is a widespread issue. Safety concerns, cultural restrictions, and the fear of harassment often force girls indoors after puberty. Many parents see early marriage as the only way to protect their daughters. Nasrin was surrounded by these norms—but her path began to shift when she became involved with Good Neighbors Bangladesh's Women Friendly Space (WFS).

Through Good Neighbors Bangladesh WFS sessions, Nasrin learned about her rights, emotional resilience, and personal safety. She gained knowledge on the harms of child marriage, and how it can limit a girl's potential and future. These sessions opened her eyes—and empowered her to act. One day, Nasrin and her peers heard that a girl in the camp was about to be married off. They first reported the issue to the local office, but nothing had changed. Refusing to give up, Nasrin brought the matter to the CiC office. Her persistence paid off—the child marriage was stopped. That moment sparked a fire within her.

Today, Nasrin is a young advocate for change. She goes door-to-door in the camp, spreading awareness about the dangers of child marriage, dowry, and child labor. She confidently speaks up against injustice and knows exactly where to go when a child is at risk. Through Good Neighbors Bangladesh's support, she has helped connect many vulnerable children to the organization's case management services. Though poverty forced her to leave the school, she refuses to give up on her dreams. She studies at home, sewing clothes to support her family, and aspires to become a teacher—so she can help others learn and grow, just as she has.

Nasrin's journey shows the transformative power of education, support, and safe spaces. With the help of Good Neighbors Bangladesh, she has not only overcome personal hardship but is now leading change within her community. Her story is a testament to what's possible when young girls are given the tools and encouragement to stand up for themselves—and for others.

Nasrin doesn't just hope for change. She is creating it. One bold step at a time.

3.3.4 Transforming Childcare Practices:

For holistic development and well-being of children and parents, Good Neighbors Bangladesh delivered structured positive parenting sessions to parents who are involved in rearing children with mid aged to adolescents. In these interventions Good Neighbors Bangladesh enrolled 7,077 parents and caregivers (3,481M, 3,598F) in structured positive parenting sessions with 15 parents in each group in the community level with the support of facilitators. These groups attended 3 months sessions comprising of 20 sessions that included holistic development of children and adolescents, psychosocial wellbeing, responsive caregiving, interaction and communication with children, valuing children irrespective of gender, non-violent attitude, SRHR and child marriage and peer support. After attending three months sessions, parents and caregivers equipped essential skills and techniques that related to healthy child rearing, fostering relationship and wellbeing of family.

Women in a focus group discussion from the camp expressed what knowledge they achieve and get from Good Neighbors Bangladesh regarding childcare-

Respindent-1: Attending the session, I learn a lot of new information, encouraging children through love and smile, storytelling not provoking because it is essential to create positive communication and bonding with my children.

Respindent-2: We should not beat our children. When a child makes a mistake, we should talk with them instead of beating them. We must talk with a soft tone so that they can realize their mistakes. Parents should talk wisely.

Respindent-3: I never thought about how my children feel when I shout at them. I thought I was doing the right thing. I must be kind and listen to my children as they learnt from me. So, I must be a good example for my children to make them good children.

The voice reflects a significant shift in the way respondents view parenting and their approach to interacting with children influenced by Good Neighbors Bangladesh's child protection interventions, demonstrating a move to constructive communication. The first respondent emphasizes the importance of creating positive communication and bonding with children through love, smiles, and storytelling, rather than provoking or discouraging them. This approach is seen as essential for fostering a supportive and nurturing environment. The adolescent's emphasis on avoiding physical punishment suggests dialogue in terms of positive parenting techniques promoted through the training sessions. The second statement, suggesting that parents should avoid physical punishment and instead engage in calm, constructive conversations with their children when mistakes are made. All three responses highlight a growing awareness of the importance of positive parenting, where kindness, communication, and being a role model are key to raising well-adjusted children.

Parents and adolescents from camp and host community also expressed what they learn regarding child labor and child marriage.

One woman in host community shared-

Involving children under 18 to do heavy work is child labor, which harms their mental health, deprives them of education, and violates their rights. Instead of sending children to work, parents should support their learning.

Adolescent girl from the camp said-

When a child works outside to earn money before the age of 18, it is considered Child labor, which is very dangerous. Because of child labour, a child cannot grow up naturally. He/she lost weight and has to carry a lot of weight. If a child helps his parents, it is not child labor. But when he does it to earn money, it will be called child labor.

The statements validate their understanding of childcare, parenting, child labour developed through Good Neighbors Bangladesh's awareness programs, showing participants' ability to distinguish between harmful exploitation and acceptable household responsibilities. The first quote from parents reveals a comprehensive grasp of child labor's consequences recognizing not just educational deprivation but also psychological harm means they can now articulate child labor's hidden harms mental health and growth.

From Survival to Strength: Laily's Journey of Transformation

When Laily (not real name) (Aged 33 Years) crossed into Bangladesh with her family in 2017, she carried nothing but her children, the clothes on her back, and the haunting memories of the violence they fled. The river they crossed marked not only a physical border but the painful divide between a lost life and a life yet to begin. Landing in an unfamiliar land with no shelter, no belongings, and no certainty of food or safety, Laily's days were filled with fear and exhaustion. Every corner of the camp echoed with stories of pain, trauma, and desperate survival—hers included. Today, Laily stands transformed. No longer the woman weighed down by loss, she has slowly rebuilt her life with strength, grace, and a deep sense of purpose. Through the support of Good Neighbors Bangladesh, she found the guidance and tools she needed to take her first steps toward healing—and then towards helping others. It all began with awareness sessions and skill-building programs offered in the camp by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. These sessions introduced her to new ideas, from basic rights and emotional wellbeing to parenting strategies and vocational skills. One line, in particular, changed her forever: "Discipline doesn't have to mean punishment." That sentence became a turning point in how Laily approached motherhood. Having grown up in an environment where physical discipline was common, she initially replicated the same with her own children—believing it was the only way to teach them right from wrong. But Good Neighbors Bangladesh's sessions helped her realize there's a better way. With newfound patience, she began responding with love, communication, and empathy. The result? Her children began listening, opening, and showing respect not out of fear—but out of trust. "When you speak with love, kids actually listen," Laily now says with a confident smile. Laily's transformation didn't stop within her household. With each session, her confidence grew. She started sharing what she learned with neighbors and friends. Slowly, she became a trusted figure in her community—someone others came to for advice or support. From a mother filled with worry to a community role model, Laily's journey reflects the true impact of empowerment through education and compassion. Laily's story is not just one of survival, it's one of rediscovery, resilience, and change. Through Good Neighbors Bangladesh's continued support, she has learned that rebuilding doesn't start with material goods—it starts from within. And that even in the aftermath of great loss, dignity, kindness, and hope can grow.

3.4 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

3.4.1 Evidence of Normative Change:

"Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) usually refers to the knowledge, practices, and access to facilities that enable women and girls to manage their menstrual health safely, hygienically, and with dignity. In this context, Good Neighbors Bangladesh conducted awareness-raising sessions on menstrual health and hygiene to promote better practices and raise awareness about cultural and societal norms surrounding menstruation.

Alongside conducting these sessions, Good Neighbors Bangladesh distributed dignity/hygiene kits, which included sanitary napkins, bathing soap, detergent, and hand wash. These kit distributions were part of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's risk mitigation efforts and aimed to promote safe menstrual hygiene practices to improve health and hygiene, particularly in schools within the host community. Good Neighbors Bangladesh identified the most vulnerable individuals and created a beneficiary list to ensure targeted support. The study found that adolescent girls were not only benefited from the knowledge they received from Good Neighbors Bangladesh but also were able to bring about changes in their practices. Adolescent girls in a group discussion from host community disclosed-

The Unspoken Need

Of course, the girls in the village are not aware of the health or the menstrual hygiene or management. Many girls do not know how to use or how many hours should the sanitary pad use, do not what are the results of early marriage etc. Many things may have known a little bit by some of them, but by explaining this in the session all together with the pragmatic knowledge, Good Neighbors Bangladesh able to bring positive changes in their knowledge and practice, which was needed. So, the girls claim that they have benefited a lot through participating in Good Neighbors Bangladesh learning session. This type of awareness-raising intervention should continue for people of different ages.

I learned that when its bleeding, we must change clothes every 2.5 hours. And the pad needs to be changed every 6 hours. Also, the used cloth must be dried in the sun for a long time. But we never practice like this. We let it dry in a secret place in the house so that no one can see it. Because it would be a shame if someone saw it. But they (Good Neighbors Bangladesh) advised us not to do. We are now aware, so we let it dry in the sun, there is no shame in it.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh talked about the cleanliness of the genitals and told us to inform our parents without hiding any disease. If there is a stomach-ache, one should take paracetamol. Besides, a lot of bleeding during the period, girls should eat a balanced diet such as vegetables, fruits, eggs, milk, and to increase her blood, she should eat pomegranates, dragon fruits, oranges, fish, meat, and beef liver. She should also take iron tablets every month.

The first statement reflects a significant shift in menstrual hygiene practices because of the awareness programs conducted by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. The respondent describes how they previously kept menstrual cloths hidden, due to the stigma and shame associated with menstrual hygiene. After the interventions these cultural norms were challenged by encouraging adolescents to practice proper menstrual hygiene, such as drying menstrual cloths into the direct sunlight thus promoting good health and reducing the associated stigma. The interventions were effective in addressing not only the real aspects of menstrual hygiene but also the cultural attitude that hindered healthy practices. Here the transformation mirrors the empowerment of adolescent girls through education. The second statement emphasizes the comprehensive approach Good Neighbors Bangladesh took in educating adolescent girls about menstrual health, personal hygiene, and overall well-being. The adolescent girls were provided advice such as maintaining genital cleanliness, seeking medication when required and having diet to manage their iron level and menstrual health. This indicates the holistic strategy in addressing the physical, nutritional and emotional aspects of adolescent girls' health. So, the interventions have not only improved practical hygiene but have also contributed to changing the cultural mindsets and enhancing the health knowledge of adolescents.

The sessions that conducted by Good Neighbors Bangladesh was not only helpful for the current knowledge increasing of but also it had a great impact on their development of future menstrual health management awareness. So, the diversified adolescent age group benefited in different ways participating in the session of Good Neighbors Bangladesh. In the host community like many other adolescents one respondent shared with us -

I haven't had my period yet; I had a very good experience from these sessions. I think the younger girls should know too. Because then they won't be scared, just like I wasn't scared either. When I would get my first period, I knew I would tell my mom, and she should buy pads and an iron tablet. I learned about menstrual hygiene from the Good Neighbors session before at the school.

The participant's statement reveals the timing advantage of intervention – receiving MHM education before menarche which results in positive, fear-free first period experience. This positive personal experience shows how the sessions not only provided valuable knowledge about menstrual hygiene but also helped reduce their fear and stigma surrounding menstruation. By sharing their own experience of learning about menstrual health before menstruation occurred, the girl noted that the importance of early education for younger girls, enabling them to feel more prepared when they experience menstruation for the first time.

Beside host community women and adolescents in the camp received sanitary pad, cleaning agent from the Good Neighbors Bangladesh intervention which was influential to change their menstrual hygiene practice. Improvement of their practice along with receiving material assistance had a potential impact of sustainable behavioral change in them. In the camp a Rohingya/FDMN woman expressed-

During menstruation, we should use clean cloth or cotton. If we use cloth, it should be washed well with hot water and dried in sunlight. At “Shantikhana”¹⁵ (WFS) we learned that if we don’t dry it in direct sunlight areas as it can contaminate germs. Furthermore, they told us that after using sanitary napkins or cotton, we should bury them in the ground or burn them. Good Neighbors Bangladesh provides us with iron tablets, because bleeding during period time causes iron deficiency and health problems.

Other women from the camp elicited regarding their adolescent menstrual health-

Girls bleeds like for 3-7 days every month during their period. In this time their health needs some care, I think. I don't feel like eating, working on anything, I feel sad and sick. So, women and girls have to eat good food like eggs, fish, meat, vegetables, fruits. We received iron tablets from Good Neighbors Bangladesh which were good for our body. We also get clothes and cotton from them (Good Neighbors Bangladesh). We use them during menstruation. We wash the clothes well with soap and let them dry in the sunlight.

How much those sessions were benefited for the adolescents also heard from the voice of parents of adolescents in the camps as well in the host community. From their perspective the intervention added a greater value to their family life in sense of behavioral change regarding menstrual health and practices. Parents also considered the distribution of sanitary pads (health hygiene kits) among their daughters in the schools as significant intervention of Good Neighbors Bangladesh. Moreover, construction of disability friendly and girl friendly toilet and restroom in educational institution by them helped to reduce some circumstantial problem related to menstrual health at the educational institution where the adolescent stay most of the time at the day. One mother from the host community cited-

Now we have the advantage that Good Neighbors has arranged free pads in our school for our daughters, because of that if someone has their period, they can get free pads at school. Earlier, if someone has their period they had to return home or they would have to stay at school for 7 to 8 hours without changing their pads, which caused various health problems, such as itching and irritation. They (adolescent girls) got free pads at school some days which let us stay without tension. Good Neighbors have built a wash block on this side of the school. Now it has benefited them a lot, they can go to the washroom as they need, whenever they want.

The statement highlights how combining facilities material support, infrastructure (wash blocks), with awareness ensures community trust and long-term behavioural change in the school. The availability of free pads at school had alleviated the challenges girls once faced when they lacked access to sanitary products. Additionally, the construction of a dedicated wash block at the school has provided a convenient and private space for girls to manage their menstrual hygiene with ease and comfort.

Regarding the Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions one NGO coordination officer suggest for future intervention extension-

15. In the Rohingya camp, women refer to the Women-Friendly Space (WFS) as "Shantikhana," which means a place of peace. Since this space is exclusively for women, it provides them with an opportunity to gather, share their feelings with other women and counsellors, and enjoy some moments of solitude—something that is difficult to find elsewhere in the camp, which lacks such spaces.

There are still menstrual hygiene problems in various schools in host community. They (Good Neighbors Bangladesh) can work on that. My suggestion is to go to different upazilas of Cox's Bazar. Because there is a lot of shortage of this hygiene material or facilities in the rural area. Good Neighbors Bangladesh can address those places too if they want. Besides, there is the issue of social stigma, many adolescent girls and women do not want to disclose it. I think there is a bit more counselling, or awareness needed in here.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made significant progress in addressing GBV, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities through structured interventions, awareness campaigns, and multi-sectoral collaboration. Here are the statements

Prepared, Not Scared: Naznin's Story

For many girls, getting their first period can be confusing, scary, even traumatic. However, Naznin's (not real name) experience was entirely different. "It hadn't even started yet," she recalls, "but I had already learned so much from the Good Neighbors sessions. That's why I wasn't scared at all." These educational sessions did more than just inform her; they also shaped her. Through these classes, Naznin grew into a confident, self-aware teenager who knew what to expect and how to take care for herself. When her first period came, she did not panic. Instead, she calmly approached her mother and asked for help.

Now, Naznin knows how to manage her hygiene, what foods to eat, and why nutrition matters. But beyond her own well-being, she shares this crucial knowledge with her cousins, friends, and other girls in the community. She has become a quiet messenger of awareness, one conversation at a time. "I used to know nothing, now I can teach others too" she says with a soft smile. Naznin's story is not just about navigating puberty; it is about stepping into her own power and using it to uplift others. It is a narrative of hope, growth, and the quiet revolution sparked by knowledge shared from one heart to another.

Naznin's story indicates that challenges remain—particularly in menstrual hygiene management and the persistent stigma surrounding women's health in rural and underserved areas where Good Neighbors Bangladesh can design their intervention further.



A Simple Change, A Lasting Impact: The Power of Clean Washrooms Facilities

“To us, the washroom and restroom built by Good Neighbor Bangladesh feels like a blessing,” Habiba (not real name) said, her face lighting up with a peaceful smile that seemed to reflect the feelings of every girl in her madrasah. She shared even a few days ago periods are nightmare for all the girls as they were wearing the same pad for seven or eight hours which used to feel them uncomfortable. “There was itching, constant irritation down there, and I’d get urinary infections all the time.” But now? Things are totally different. “I can change my pad every two or three hours and I feel fresh. I’m not getting infections anymore. And when I need a break, I can just sit in the restroom with the fan on and rest for a bit.” The smile on her face said it all. And it doesn’t end there. There’s clean, filtered drinking water available. Girls who feel unwell can get basic first aid right from the facility. Even the mothers who come to the school for meetings are able to use the washroom. It’s become a safe space—not just for hygiene, but for dignity. Habiba’s story is a powerful reminder that sometimes, all it takes is clean facilities to spark a quiet revolution.

3.4.2 Adoption of Healthier Practices and Overcoming Stigma Menstrual Hygiene Management Practice:

In the Rohingya/FDMN culture the menstrual hygiene was surrounded by stigma and a matter of secrecy. During the period adolescents kept separate by their parents and menstrual cloths could not be dried outside, as there is a societal shame attached with it. In an interview an adolescent girl in the camp expressed-

We have become aware of menstruation. Earlier, our parents used to separate us during our periods, the cloth we used as pad could not dry it outside in the sun in front of others. Now parents and we accept the health and cleanliness issue related with menstrual not to hide all the time.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh helps to bring change in the understanding menstrual hygiene. After attending the awareness session both parents and children are currently starting to accept the importance of health and cleanliness related to menstruation, without the need to hide or be ashamed. The statements indicates that, shift in their understanding brings positive change in practice, which is demonstrates a transformation in attitudes toward menstrual health. This change not only impacts on the girls’ daily lives by reducing stigma and enabling them to manage their periods with dignity but also contributes to broader efforts to promote gender equality. . It empowers girls to feel more comfortable about their bodies, while also encouraging parents to support their daughters’ menstrual health, fostering an environment of acceptance and care.

3.4.3 Overcoming Stigma:

Menstrual hygiene has long been a subject of silence, taboo, and cultural stigma in both the Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities. Before the intervention, menstruation was seen as a “shameful” topic and rarely discussed, even among women. Adolescent girls and mothers often did not have proper knowledge about menstrual health. This silence led to harmful myths, poor hygiene practices, and absenteeism from school, which limited women’s dignity and involvement in everyday life. Through targeted awareness sessions, distribution of hygiene kits, and the establishment of safe spaces—particularly Women-Friendly Spaces and Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centre Good Neighbors Bangladesh successfully broke the culture of silence around menstruation. Awareness sessions integrated menstrual education within broader health and protection discussions, ensuring that menstruation was treated as a natural biological process rather than a source of shame. Facilitators and counsellors used participatory discussions, and group reflections to normalize conversations. Adolescent girls were instructed in the proper use of sanitary pads, the frequency of changing them, drying cloths under the sun, and hygiene during menstruation. As one participant expressed,

Before, I used to feel shy to talk about it, even with my mother. Now I can speak freely and teach my younger sister how to manage it properly.

Field evidence shows a clear shift in attitudes: adolescent girls now dry menstrual cloths in sunlight instead of hiding them indoors, schools increasingly allocate separate toilets for girls, and discussions about menstruation have become part of community dialogue. The stigma that once caused embarrassment, secrecy, and health risks has been replaced with knowledge, confidence, and acceptance. Good Neighbors Bangladesh’s interventions have transformed menstruation into a public health and rights issue by dispelling myths and promoting open conversation to the Rohingya/FDMN communities. This change presents a significant shift in gender norms and dignity in addition to better hygiene practices.

3.5 Socio-Economic Empowerment

3.5.1 Skills Training in Camps:

The socio-economic empowerment of women in Rohingya/FDMN camps has been a critical focus of Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions. The program implemented various activities, including life skills training for adolescent girls and women, who were among the most vulnerable and eager to learn, through the establishment of WFS and MPCAC. The training focused on two trades—tailoring and handicrafts—based on the interests and demands of the women and girls. Good Neighbors Bangladesh conducted a review of the existing training modules for tailoring and handicrafts to ensure the content aligned with the beneficiaries’ interests and needs, which was then incorporated into the training. After the training, project supported the trainees by providing start-up kits to help them earn an income from home. Additionally, Good Neighbors Bangladesh fostered linkages with other actors by providing materials and equipment, ensuring that adolescent girls received sewing machines and handicraft supplies.

These partnerships helped support the trainees' engagement in income-generating activities. The learning centre were well-equipped, with sewing machines provided to individual participants for practical training sessions. The interventions also included transgender individuals and persons with disabilities in its capacity-building activities, ensuring inclusive support for all.

The study persuaded that how does the provided skill training helped the participant to empower economically or enhanced their capacity to earn or what other change and influence they noticed to their life due to participate in this program. One woman from the camp expressed

Through attending sewing training in the learning center, I learned how to cut a dress, also learned how to sew a complete dress by the sewing machine. I also know there are no other option in the camp to learn this skill for a woman and girls.

The opportunity of learning sewing skill was identified by the Rohingya/FDMN women as the basis of future development because they have no other such scope to learn or to create an income opportunity within the camp. Thus, the study team found reorganisation in their voice regarding Good Neighbors Bangladesh skill development training interventions.

Furthermore, skill training was not confined with the convention tailoring work, their training cover variety of sewing work which identified as advantage for them. One transgender expressed-

They taught us how to sew bags with stone, they taught us tailoring, and flower stitching. Not only this I received some material to start tailoring work like needle, tread, clothes, scissors.

Furthermore, women from the camp said-

I learned sewing, which I liked the most from the instructors. Besides that, we were also taught stonework, which was beneficial for us.

In the socio-economic capacity building training activities of Good Neighbors Bangladesh also provide the women and girls different kind of arts and craft material as startup material. This distribution of startup materials among the participants was helped the camp women to start their tailoring work in the camp and earn themselves.

3.5.2 From Training to Earning: Toward Financial Autonomy:

Participating in skill training capacitated most of the Rohingya/FDMN women to move toward earning by themselves. Although the camp life restricted with mobility, lack of market access, dependency on aid which retain them from livelihood activities and for women those limitations extended with patriarchal cultural restriction. However, this sewing and handicraft training pave the way of earning for many women in the camp.

A woman from the camp expressed:

“When I get some order from my neighbours, not regularly though, soon after completing the work I get some money. There is no fixed income on this, but I get around one thousand to two thousand takas monthly, I find this earning blessing for me as there is no other way for us (women) to earn here.”

Women from the camp said about her income process-

I take tailoring order from the block (residence), especially dress making order for women and children. Thus, I able to make some money like 4-5 thousand taka per month.

Along with limited access to engage in the economic activities, earning that was not consistent or fixed, women of the Rohingya/FDMN camp expresses gratitude for the earning, acknowledging that it is a significant blessing given within the limited opportunities available to women in the camp by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. Moreover, after learning sewing training women takes tailoring orders specifically for dressmaking for women and children within the camp. The respondents expressed appreciation for their earnings, showing resilience and adaptability in a challenging environment that created by participation in skill development initiative of Good Neighbors Bangladesh. The women's earnings, although modest, underscore the importance of interventions like those offered by Good Neighbors Bangladesh, which aim was to provide women with skills and economic support to increase their income-generating potential and increase their dignity.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh provided more than just skill training for the participant in the camp; they also keep their learning center open for the trained women to use the sewing machines for completing the work orders. In addition to access to sewing machines, the women were provided with threads and other craft materials from Good Neighbors Bangladesh to support their work.

A transgender disclosed about the earning after learning the sewing skill-

I get fifty taka or hundred takas, depending on work as per order and I use sewing machine, threads, of the learning center with no cost. I have no machine, so this is a great opportunity by the Good Neighbors Bangladesh. I wish I have my own sewing machine at my house.

This statement highlights the limited but valuable opportunities provided to the woman through Good Neighbors Bangladesh. She expresses gratitude for the free access to the learning center's sewing machines and materials, as she does not have her own equipment. The initiative has provided important support, access to her own tools would enhance her ability to generate consistent income.

Beyond the financial benefits of earning money by attending Good Neighbors Bangladesh skill development intervention, there have been significant non-financial impacts on the lives of women and their families. Learning the skill and ability to earn income not only strengthens their households but also provides them with financial control, women experience enhanced social recognition and personal growth, control over resources, which contribute to a deeper sense of empowerment.

3.5.3 Women's Earnings and Households Impact:

The participants who were engaged in tailoring and earn money, among them almost everyone contribute their income to their family. One woman in the camp expressed-

My father must do a lot of hard work to earn money; I felt bad for him when I had nothing to do. Now I able to spend some money on buying clothes, necessary goods for my family from my earnings. It makes me satisfied all the way.

This statement reflects a significant shift in the participant's sense of responsibility, empowerment, and pride in contributing to her family, as women's economic participation is limited and somewhat discouraged in Rohingya/FDMN culture. Her ability to buy clothes and other necessary goods for her family from her own income highlights the financial autonomy and agency she has gained. This shift also reflects a change in family dynamics, where her contribution is acknowledged and valued, thereby fostering a sense of dignity and self-worth. The ability to financially support the family also suggests that her role within the household has shifted, promoting a more equitable distribution of responsibilities and redefining traditional gender roles. This empowerment comes from economic independence and contributing to family well-being, what is led to transform gender norms which is the broader impact of skill development interventions. Some respondents identified their indirect contribution through their sewing skill as they did not earn yet.

One woman said-

I sewed all the necessary clothes for my house. In this case, I don't have to spend money outside to get clothes sewn.

This statement highlights the indirect yet valuable contribution that women make using their sewing skills, The woman describes how she sews all the necessary clothes for her household, eliminating the need to spend money on having clothes sewn outside. This action showcases how skills learned through Good Neighbors Bangladesh training helped women save money, increase self-reliance, and manage household expenses more effectively. The importance of skill-building initiatives like those of Good Neighbors Bangladesh, which empower women to make significant contributions to their households, even in the absence of direct income.

3.5.4 Financial Control and Social Recognition:

Women not only contributed their earning to their family but also gained the financial independence, which allowing them of spend their own earing on personal needs. This aspect of empowerment also significantly helped to raise their self-confidence in accordance.

An adolescent girl from the camp disclosed her freedom over spending her income-

I spend it on buying clothes and makeup or cosmetics for me as I want but before earning, I could hardly get money from my parents to spend for me.

The participation in Good Neighbors Bangladesh skill development intervention and engagement in earning activity bring financial autonomy and personal empowerment. The statement highlights before earning her own money, the respondent felt limited by the financial dependency on her parents. However, the change shows the ability to earn her own income has empowered the respondent. This independence not only provides her with material goods but also boosts her sense of self-worth, as she can make decisions about her own spending. It highlights the personal growth and self-reliance that result from financial independence and emphasizes how access to economic opportunities can improve women's agency in both personal and family matters.

This earning of Rohingya/FDMN women had a greater socio impact in their family life rather than economical. The impact study found some influence in their personal life as well as family relation. From the voice of adolescent girl in the camp-

My parents are giving more importance now. They adore me a lot than before earning, because of such contribution. I used to cook food for my family before as well as other household work. But now my mother cooks and help me doing other work when I sit for stitching.

Recognition of their work and earning as well as supportive role of their family member towards their skills and economic advancement can be identified as remarkable impact of the program in this case. Good Neighbors Bangladesh program has demonstrably enhanced the socio-economic capacities of Rohingya/FDMN women through structured skill-building interventions. By providing sewing training, startup materials, and sustained access to resources, the initiative has enabled participants to generate income, contribute to household economies, and gain financial autonomy in many cases helped to raise their self-confidence, family recognition and helped to reshape the traditional gender roles.



Stitching Dignity: Exclusion to Empowerment

Mizan (not real name), a self-identified transgender whose life took a transformative turn when Good Neighbors Bangladesh offered vocational training. This intervention provided Mizan with the opportunity to learn valuable skills in tailoring, flower stitching, and drawing, paving the way for a modest yet meaningful source of income. Mizan's newfound skills enabled him to create and sell stitched garments, earning an average of 300 Tk per piece. The cost of fabric was 200 Tk, and thread bundles around 120 Tk, leaving him with an average profit of 100–120 Tk. This income supported not only himself but also his family, as he taught these skills to his sisters, fostering a culture of learning and contribution within the household. Despite his talents, Mizan faced significant barriers when seeking employment at local tailor shops. Shop owners repeatedly rejected him, stating, “They are transgender, they can’t work here.” This societal stigma did not deter Mizan; instead, it fueled his determination to improve his situation. While Mizan's parents quietly acknowledged his identity, they could not openly support him due to prevailing social prejudices. Additionally, his work was limited by the lack of essential tools—such as a sewing machine—and a safe working space. Unlike others who could take Eid orders, Mizan had to borrow equipment from a friend, struggling to meet demand. Mizan dreams of owning a sewing machine and opening a tailor shop where everyone, regardless of identity, can work together in a supportive environment. This vision reflects his desire to create a space where acceptance and inclusiveness prevail. Good Neighbors Bangladesh’s intervention went beyond economic support; it provided Mizan with a space where he felt seen and accepted. His story illustrates how small, empathetic, and inclusive efforts can lead to significant change. Mizan's resilience and determination, coupled with the support from Good Neighbors Bangladesh, highlights the profound impact of creating opportunities for marginalized individuals. Mizan’s case story is a testament to the power of empathy and inclusivity in driving real change. Through structured skill-building and sustained support, Mizan has not only carved a path to economic independence but also laid the foundation for a future where dignity and empowerment are accessible to all. His journey underscores the importance of breaking down societal barriers and fostering environments where everyone can thrive.

3.6 Inclusion and Psychosocial Support

3.6.1 Shifting Attitude Towards Persons with Disability (PwD):

The awareness sessions conducted by Good Neighbors Bangladesh have not only focused on addressing major issues but have also provided crucial knowledge on various concerns, particularly in changing attitudes toward persons with disabilities (PwD). These sessions have contributed to creating a more inclusive community by promoting understanding and empathy for individuals with special needs. One woman from the host community expressed about their current awareness-

Good Neighbors first told us that we should provide emotional support to those with special needs. They are asking us to treat them well. Nothing should be done that will break their hearts or cause them pain. We also tell our sisters that if you see someone with special needs, then treat them well, do not mistreat them. We should support them. There are many children who do not understand anything. People think they are mad sometime people pull their clothes or try to irritate them. They annoy them by bullying them disable. This hurts them. It is not right to do these things to them. They should always be treated well, this what we learn from Good Neighbors Bangladesh.

At the same time one adolescent girl from the camp said-

Good Neighbors Bangladesh told us that if we have a special child around us, we have to treat her gently, one of my elder sisters is a special child, who has no finger on her hand. And she is a little bit unstable on mentally. We loved her most and always tried to help her in every situation. When she was unable to pick things, I helped her to do those things. We should never quarrel with them.

The first statement emphasizes the importance of emotional support and kindness for individuals with special needs. The respondent reflects on how Good Neighbors Bangladesh has aware them to treat those disabled persons with respect, dignity, and care. It is also noted that the PwDs often face negative attitude such as bullying and mistreatment, which can cause emotional harm. It encourages a shift in attitude toward PwD fostering a more inclusive and supportive community environment. In the second one, the respondent emphasis the act of helping their disabled sister and showing love reflects the deep understanding that grown by Good Neighbors Bangladesh awareness.

Both statements underscore the impact of Good Neighbors Bangladesh teachings in encouraging the knowledge and practical actions like emotional support, gentle care, and compassion towards individuals with disabilities.

3.6.2 Psychosocial Support: Safe Spaces, Stronger Mental Care:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh has made significant strides in addressing the psychosocial well-being of children and families in the camp settings. The intervention aimed to strengthen the protective environment for children both at home and in the broader community by implementing structured and unstructured Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions. These efforts are aligned with the 2022 Joint Response Plan (JRP) Child Protection Objective 4, which seeks to ensure that boys, girls, and adolescents are facing life-threatening risks, including abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, and severe distress, have access to well-coordinated, gender-responsive child and youth services. In Rohingya/FDMN camp Good Neighbors Bangladesh operated 7 multi-purpose centers with the support of trained psychosocial support officers. These centers served children per group, promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being.

This intervention increased the children's capacity to learn, effectively respond to challenges, and express themselves in a safe and supportive environment. A total of 14,095 individuals (7,073 male, 7,022 female, and 29 persons with disabilities, including 14 male and 15 female) received psycho-education messages through community-based

interventions, helping them manage stress and ensuring the well-being of children in the respective camps. Children with disabilities were also included in structured PSS sessions, unstructured support sessions, and counseling, which helped them cope with stress, identify feelings, and build better social connections within their communities. Woman from the camp expressed-

Good Neighbors Bangladesh held sessions for us about mental health and what we should do when we experience mental stress.

In host community adolescent girl disclosed-

Yes, they discussed about the importance of mental health. If we feel upset, they told us to sing songs, to look at ourselves in the mirror. They also suggested talking to ourselves alone and we should do whatever we like to do at that time.

This statement highlights the effectiveness of Good Neighbors Bangladesh 's mental health interventions in making psychological wellbeing accessible and relatable to adolescent girls in the host community. By encouraging simple ways Good Neighbors Bangladesh helped to create an agency over their emotional states.

Additionally, the MHPSS interventions addressed various child protection risks such as child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, corporal punishment, drug addiction, and gender-based violence. These issues were discussed in group sessions and community dialogues, allowing participants to learn about mitigation strategies and available support pathways at the family and community levels. Children participated in 28 sessions that covered key topics such as relationships with individuals, families, and the community, friendship, trust, emotions, and problem-solving. These sessions had a positive impact, with children showing improved social relationships, coping skills, and self-esteem. An adolescent from camp expressed their awareness-

Before, I would get so angry and not know how to stop. Now, when I feel upset, I take a deep breath and count to ten, and it helps me calm down.

In addition to structured sessions, Good Neighbors Bangladesh also delivered unstructured PSS services, including psychological first aid, recreational activities, and lay counseling (stress management, anger management) through door-to-door visits and group sessions at clubs. These activities helped participants alleviate stress and cope with the daily challenges they face, ultimately enhancing their psychosocial well-being.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh also focused on building the capacity of parents and caregivers in MHPSS, which enabled them to better support their children's emotional and mental health. This support helped to improve child-parent relationships, promote positive discipline practices, and create a healthier environment within the camps. One parent reflected on the changes:

Before attending this session, I used to beat my child if they didn't listen to me. But from today, I learned that it's not okay to beat my child, as it harms them mentally and physically. I promise that I will not hit my child anymore.

From the camp a women said-

If someone is upset, they are asked to take them out for a walk. They are asked to give them more time, which will make them happy. Their upset will go away. They don't really want to say anything. If we ask them (children) something with a little love and affection, they open up and tell us everything.

The respondent's statement underscores the significance of emotional availability and connection in helping others, especially children, feel heard and understood. By taking the time to offer care, love, and attention, the respondent indicates that emotional healing can be fostered in a supportive and non-judgmental manner.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh's intervention also provided life-saving child protection support during emergencies to 100 affected children's families, ensuring that both the children and their families had the necessary resources and support during critical situations.

The women friendly space (WFS) operated by Good Neighbors Bangladesh served as a sanctuary of peace for the women living in the camp. The WFS offered more than just material support to women and adolescents, providing a rare opportunity for them to spend time with friends and other women. Additionally, they had access to counseling services from the counsellors available at any time to support them through various situations.

Adolescents from the camp expressed in group discussion-

Respondent-1: When I feel too upset, I come here (WFS) and share my feeling with them.
Respondent-3: Here We can talk with our friends, discuss problems. We can play sports.
Respondent-4: Yes, if I came here (WFS) with a heavy heart, they (counsellors) would take us aside separately, listen to us, and provide solutions. There is a separate room inside for conversations.

There was a crucial role of Good Neighbors Bangladesh women friendly space (WFS) in providing holistic psychosocial support for Rohingya/FDMN women and girls in the camps. WFS serves as a safe emotional space, particularly crucial in a displaced community where mental health is ignored. WFS's functioned as both a social hub for peer support and a recreational space. The structured support system within WFS, where trained officers provide confidential counseling private spaces which is survivor centered approach to case management.

Currently, with a few exceptions, most of the WFSs operated by Good Neighbors Bangladesh are not functional, resulting in most adolescents and children being deprived of opportunities for recreational activities.

A UNICEF staff member was expressed about the impact and importance of MPCAC-

Children used to come here MPCAC and draw, play together, and tell stories, passed their good and quality time also. Now the center is closed, they remain sad. When the center was functioned, they were happy.

There was a profound psychosocial impact of Good Neighbors Bangladeshs MPCAC on Rohingya/FDMN children before its closure. The statement indicates these services addressed emotional needs of such facilities in the humanitarian response.

The MHPSS services delivered by Good Neighbors Bangladesh have been effective in addressing the psychosocial needs of children, parents, and caregivers in the refugee camps. The combination of structured and unstructured interventions, along with community engagement and the involvement of volunteers, has created a supportive environment where individuals can manage stress, improve relationships, and develop coping strategies. The integration of MHPSS services into the broader child protection and GBV prevention efforts has contributed to a significant positive impact on the overall well-being of children.

Psychosocial Support for the Forgotten

Muhammad Hasan (not real name), a 22-year-old resident of Camp 15, has maintained a strong sense of gender identity that transcends societal norms from an early age. Hasan has shown a preference for feminine attire, makeup, and social circles. Despite enduring verbal harassment, threats, and physical abuse within the camp, Hasan's resilience has remained unwavering. In seeking employment at local tailor shops and other establishments, Hasan encountered significant obstacles due to his identity. He aspires to own a sewing machine and establish a tailor shop where individuals of all identities can work together in a supportive environment. This vision is reflective of his desire to foster acceptance and inclusiveness. Good Neighbors Bangladesh's intervention provided Hasan with a space where he felt acknowledged and accepted. Hasan remarked, "Sometimes, our lives change because of a few kind words—and Good Neighbors Bangladesh did just that for me. They listened when no one else would." Through psychosocial support and counselling sessions, Hasan found solace and encouragement. Hasan's story illustrates the transformative power of empathy and inclusivity. Within the camp, individuals like Hasan often face severe social stigma, compelling them to avoid common spaces. They are subjected to stone-throwing and mockery simply for being third gender, resulting in mental trauma. However, at Good Neighbors Bangladesh's centre, Hasan experienced a sense of belonging and acceptance previously absent from his life. The counselling sessions enabled him to express his thoughts and feelings openly, making a substantial difference in his life. His journey underscores the profound impact of creating opportunities for marginalized individuals and demonstrates how small, empathetic actions can lead to significant change.



3.7 Evidence of Boarder Social Norm Change:

Good Neighbors Bangladesh were engaged men, women, adolescent community leaders through awareness campaigns, economic empowerment of women, sustained efforts can reshape perceptions, reduce tolerance for violence, and create an environment where gender equality becomes the accepted standard rather than the exception. The outcome was: Positive changes in social norms like women economic participation, menstrual hygiene management, tolerance violence by women in household etc. are enhanced by addressing drivers and negative gender norms through structured GBV prevention intervention and information. By attending different awareness session as well participating in skill development session there are some significant changes identified in their conscious mind about the norm, they have regarding women earning, MHM etc. There were some key social norms sustaining in the community which were shifted after the Good Neighbors Bangladesh intervention.

3.7.1 Women's Economic Participation:

There was a negative perception about women earning money or engaging in income-generating activities in the Rohingya/FDMN community. The societal norm restricted women's economic independence and their wandering confined in household activity. Working outside or engaging in earning activities are usually not accepted by the community people. An adolescent girls form camp expressed her positive view on women economic participation-

I used to view girls earning money or participating in income-generating activities negatively, but my perspective has changed. After attending Good Neighbors Bangladesh sessions and learning from the training, I now understand their importance.

Through awareness session and skill development sessions, individuals like adolescents began to recognize the value of women's economic participation. The quote from the adolescent girl illustrates how participation in these sessions helped reshape the norm, leading to a positive change in attitudes towards women's financial contributions to the household economy, thereby promoting gender equality. This shift in perception is important because it signals the breakdown of traditional gender roles where women's economic participation is seen as both acceptable and valuable.

3.7.2 Gender Equality and cultural Transformation:

The interventions of Good Neighbors Bangladesh have led to a measurable transformation in how people perceived gender, social norms, and cultural practices in Rohingya/FDMN communities. Awareness sessions, skill development programs, and community dialogues collectively fostered an environment that values inclusivity, respect, and empowerment.

Before intervention, patriarchal norms limited women's economic participation and normalized domestic violence. However, post-intervention findings show significant changes. Adolescents and adults expressed positive attitudes about women's ability to earn money and contribute to household income. This marks a shift from dependency to acknowledgment of shared responsibility. One adolescent girl said,

Previously, I did not support girls earning money, but currently I do.

This shift illustrates the erosion of traditional barriers and the acceptance of women's active roles in the economy.

At the same time, cultural stigma surrounding menstruation have been challenged through educational initiatives and community dialogue. Participants now practice hygienic management and discuss menstruation openly. This outcome promotes women's health & dignity and indicates positive shift towards gender equality.

Attitudes toward domestic violence have also transformed. Previously, women were taught to “stay silent” about abuse. Awareness efforts of Good Neighbors Bangladesh have helped them recognize violence as unacceptable and encouraged them to seek help from women friendly space (WFS) or community leaders. This shift from tolerance to action highlights a significant change in culture driven by Good Neighbors Bangladesh's community-based approach. Overall, Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have started a generational change toward equity. Economic participation, menstrual health, and non-violence are starting to embrace as community norms. This shift from silence to empowerment demonstrates the program's sustainable impact in promoting gender equality and cultural transformation across different layers of the community.

Puli's Journey: Stitching a New Future

Puli (not real name), a 15-year-old girl from Camp 15, has become a beacon of hope and determination, embarking on a transformative journey that has impacted both her life and her community. Growing up in a Rohingya/FDMN community with limited access to education and economic opportunities, she faced societal restrictions after reaching puberty, making it difficult for her to pursue her dreams. However, everything changed when she visited a Women-Friendly Space organized by Good Neighbors Bangladesh, where she received life skills training in sewing and tailoring. This training not only equipped her with practical skills but also instilled a sense of self-worth and confidence, leading her to earn up to 6,000 taka a month. Her newfound financial independence transformed her family dynamics, with her parents, initially skeptical, recognizing her contribution and supporting her efforts. Her mother, who previously managed all household responsibilities alone, now assists Puli with her work reflecting a change in traditional gender roles.

Beyond personal growth, Puli became a role model for other girls in her community, inspiring them to join the training sessions and pursue their dreams. Her journey sparked a ripple effect, encouraging others to seek economic independence and challenge societal norms. Looking ahead, Puli dreams of expanding her work, with the seeds of sustainability already planted. Her story highlights the power of empathy and inclusivity, demonstrating how small, empathetic efforts can create lasting change. Through structured skill-building and sustained support, Puli has not only stitched a new future for herself but also woven a fabric of hope and empowerment for her community.

4. ASSESSMENT OF EVALUATION CRITERIA



4.1 Effectiveness:

The Good Neighbors Bangladesh program demonstrated significant effectiveness in achieving its core objective improving the safety, dignity, and empowerment of girls and women in both the Rohingya/FDMN and host communities. The interventions aimed to mitigate GBV risks through raising awareness and socio-economic empowerment initiatives for women and girls. Key accomplishments were seen in area such as GBV prevention and response, child protection, menstrual hygiene management, and socio-economic empowerment of women, highlighting the overall success of Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions.

GBV Prevention & Response: The interventions effectively raised the level of awareness among women and adolescent in the camp as well host community through the issue-based awareness sessions. This community level knowledge sharing session showed its effectiveness by changing the perception of community people. The adolescents and women gained foundational knowledge on different forms of violence with the corresponding pathway of accessing GBV Prevention and Response Services. Structured interventions, such as the EMAP, Girl Shine interventions, and community dialogues, showed tangible results in shifting social and behavioral norms within the community.

A clear testament from the women in camp to the program's impact comes from one participant who stated

Earlier, we saw how women in our society tolerated violence silently, hardly shared their circumstance to anyone, but now we understand what violence is and also have knowledge how to report or where to go like- we should communicate with WFS apa (case officer), inform the Majhi or CIC.

This shift from passive endurance to active awareness highlights the effectiveness of Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions in GBV prevention and response.

The study found the effective change in improved knowledge and practices around menstruation hygiene management, understanding child marriage, and with a change in harmful norms, cultural practices. Besides enhancing knowledge, Good Neighbors Bangladesh interventions also provided tangible support, such as building women-friendly toilets in host communities, distributing sanitary pads and hygiene products, and providing dignity kits to both host and the camp community. These practical interventions contributed to a noticeable improvement in practices related to menstruation and hygiene. An adolescent girl from the host community said-

The safe spaces (toilets/restrooms) allow us to change sanitary pads at school when needed and to dry clothes in the sunlight, as we learned from Good Neighbors Bangladesh sessions.

Culturally sensitive, peer-led sessions at the same time material support (dignity kits), the creation of women friendly toilet, hygiene material distribution, safe space helped foster a sense of privacy and trust, making it easier for survivors to report GBV. , These gender-transformative approaches , integration of religious leaders and community influencers in the GBV education sessions helped challenge harmful gender norms, fostering more supportive attitudes toward women and girls. have been fostered to challenge harmful social norms by the intervention. The availability of psychosocial support and case management services further strengthened the community's ability to address GBV

Child protection: In the humanitarian context, protecting children remains a top priority, and Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have significantly strengthened child protection measures. Awareness campaigns on child labor, child rights, and the risks of child marriage have led to notable changes in community attitudes. Beyond shielding children from exploitation, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has equipped them with the skills and knowledge to protect themselves by creating safe spaces and offering skill-building programs. By educating adolescents and their parents about the social and health risks of early marriage, the organization has contributed to reducing its prevalence.

Menstrual Hygiene Management: Good Neighbors Bangladesh has also made significant progress in enhancing adolescents and women's menstrual hygiene practices, an area that is frequently disregarded in many displaced communities. It has tackled the cultural and practical obstacles associated with menstruation by distributing hygiene kits and holding special awareness sessions. Because of these initiatives, community norms have changed, enabling girls to dignifiedly manage their menstrual health. The ability of girls to maintain proper hygiene in a private and secure setting has been further improved by the construction of adolescent friendly restrooms.

Socio-Economic Empowerment: The socio-economic empowerment of women, particularly through skill-building programs, has been another major outcome of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's initiatives. In tailoring and handicraft trade the women and adolescent received training along with supportive startup material. This support capacitates most of the trainees earn some quantity of money and make contributions in family income. This socio-economic empowerment not only helped women gain financial independence but also built their confidence, contributing to greater acceptance of women's participation in income-generating activities within the household and community.

The provision of sewing machines at learning centres for practical training was a key factor in the success of this initiative, providing women with the necessary tools to create sustainable income opportunities. The success of the intervention in promoting economic independence and self-reliance highlights the importance of empowering women with the skills and resources they need to thrive in challenging environments. Furthermore, inclusion of transgender into the intervention has been a crucial step in fostering inclusivity.

Inclusion and Psychosocial Support: Mental health is a critical concern in displaced communities, and Good Neighbors Bangladesh has effectively incorporated psychosocial support into its interventions. Through community-based programs and counseling services, the organization has equipped people with skills to cope with the stress and trauma of displacement. The mental health of women and children has improved significantly due to the creation of safe spaces where they can share their experiences and receive support from counselors.

4.1.1 Major Influencing Factors:

Multi-Level Engagement: The projects implemented by Good Neighbors Bangladesh had the strategic involvement of multiple layers of the community and involvement of various stakeholders at different levels of the intervention. Such as a) Community Level Engagement- engagement of women, men, adolescents, community leaders, and religious figures. For example, both men and women participated in GBV prevention sessions.

The purpose of these sessions was to educate participants about GBV and SRH, challenge prevailing gender norms, and increase awareness. By involving both men and women, the project promoted shared responsibility in preventing GBV and fostered a deeper understanding of it. b) Institutional Level Engagement- Good Neighbors Bangladesh worked at the institutional level with local government agencies, educational institutions, and organizations like UNICEF and the RRRC. These organizations were crucial in enabling the project's growth and making sure it complied with regional and national development plans and policies.

Survivor-Centered Design: Safe spaces (WFS/SSWG) of Good Neighbors Bangladesh allowed survivors of violence to report abuse incidents and seek support without worrying about judgment or reprisal because they fostered trust and guaranteed confidentiality.

Material Support: To minimize the knowledge gap and increase the impact in both the camp and host communities, dignity kits, sewing supplies, and infrastructure upgrades like women-friendly restrooms were provided. In addition to improving the participants' capacity to carry out everyday tasks, these useful aids also improved their general wellbeing and sense of empowerment.

4.1.2 Challenges and areas of improvements:

Increase the involvement of Males: Increasing the involvement of men and boys in the intervention would help to raise awareness of various issues, sensitize them to the importance of addressing GBV and child protection and encourage them to challenge harmful gender norms.

Market Access: Restricted mobility in camps is one of the causes that hindered income generation scalability. Moreover, the trainee who have no capital to arrange sewing kits and machine also constrain in generating sustainable income. In this case the market linkage initiative would work to sustain economic growth of the respondents.

Sustainability: Dependence on external funding for dignity kits and training materials can be identified as potential challenges.

The program was highly effective in meeting its objectives, with measurable improvements in GBV reporting, awareness raising, SRH practices, and women's economic empowerment with structural limits in economic scalability. Critical success factors included community ownership and integrated service delivery, while persistent barriers (e.g., cultural resistance, funding) require longer-term intervention.

4.2 Efficiency:

The Good Neighbors Bangladesh program demonstrated strong efficiency in delivering targeted outcomes relative to its inputs which ensure optimization of resources for maximum impact.

Focused Interventions: The programme was concentrating on high-impact activities—such as WFS, dignity kit distribution, and skill training.

Thus, Good Neighbors Bangladesh achieved measurable outcomes with limited resources. For example, 3 WFS in the camp served women and girls with GBV case management, PSS and referrals, maximizing reach per facility. In this case UNICEF staff expressed-

They (Good Neighbors Bangladesh) provide us some site-based provision hubs in two camps, and they provide various supports like Psychosocial Support (PSS), Life Skill-based Training (LSB) for adolescents, Case managements and referrals for vulnerable children. Good Neighbors Bangladesh also helped us to set up and make functional community-based child protection committees which are made of refugee communities. UNICEF worked with Good Neighbors Bangladesh for child protection and GBV support. We focus on case management. It is the backbone of child protection. The partnership with Good Neighbors Bangladesh helped us to maintain a minimum standard of child protection. We have been working for almost five years.

Resource Utilization and Cost Effectiveness: Good Neighbors Bangladesh's operational efficiency is demonstrated by its ability to produce noteworthy results with the resources at using it. Implementation costs were kept to a minimum while guaranteeing that the interventions reached the target audience by using local staff and involving community leaders in program delivery. Greater support and long-lasting impact were made possible by the inclusion of local actors, such as community influencers and religious leaders, without necessitating significant logistical or financial support. Additionally, Good Neighbors Bangladesh made sure that resources were used efficiently by utilizing the infrastructure that already existed, such as schools. This ensured that a significant number of women and adolescents benefited from the interventions while also minimizing overhead costs and expanding the interventions' reach. The operation of WFS and MPCAC within camps enabled the organization to centralize activities, optimizing both staff time and participant engagement.

Time Efficiency and Program Implementation: Good Neighbors Bangladesh's ability to deliver interventions in a timely manner was crucial given the rapidly changing humanitarian context in the Rohingya/FDMN community crisis. Interventions for child protection, economic empowerment, and GBV prevention and response have been implemented methodically over several phases, making sure that each one is in line with the organization's overarching objectives.

Integration of Multiple Methods for Comprehensive Coverage: Good Neighbors Bangladesh was able to conduct more outreach with fewer resources by combining skill development programs, community-based awareness sessions, and psychosocial support services. For example, by including women and men, adolescent girls and boys in awareness sessions, the program was able to address several issues at once, without requiring extra resources, including GBV, child marriage, child protection and managing menstrual hygiene. In addition to saving time, this strategy helped communities undergo more long-lasting transformations.

Interventions in the host communities and Rohingya/FDMN camps have shown a high degree of effectiveness. Moreover, it has produced significant results within a limited budget and timeframe by maximizing resource utilization, involving local actors, and using a multi-method approach. It can be said that the interventions have been successful in creating long-lasting change in the lives of vulnerable populations, largely due to its effectiveness in providing comprehensive services that include child protection, economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and GBV prevention.

4.3 Impact :

The impact of interventions in Cox's Bazar, particularly in the Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities, has been transformative across multiple areas, including GBV prevention, child protection, economic empowerment, and psychosocial well-being. The organization's multifaceted strategy, which combines community mobilization, support services, and education, has improved the lives of vulnerable groups in quantifiable ways and brought about long-lasting positive changes in these communities.

4.3.1 Change in Lives and Communities:

The Good Neighbors Bangladesh program achieved significant and measurable impact across GBV protection, child protection, women empowerment, and social norms.

Enhanced Safety and Dignity for Women and Girls: The reduction of gender-based violence in the host communities and refugee camps has been one of the biggest impacts of interventions. It has established safe spaces for women and girls to report violent incidents, seek support, and acquire knowledge through the creation of WFS and MPCAC. In addition to offering survivors direct support, these facilities create a setting that promotes awareness of GBV, SRH, and other important issues impacting women and girls. The awareness campaigns, which included discussions on the importance of mutual respect in relationships, have also contributed to a decrease in the acceptance of violence. This shift is particularly evident in the changes in behavior of family members, who, after attending these sessions.

Psychosocial Support and Mental Well-Being: The psychological strain of living in a refugee camp, compounded by trauma from displacement and violence, has left many individuals in the community struggling with mental health issues. Good Neighbors Bangladesh has addressed this by providing psychosocial support services through counseling, group sessions, and recreational activities. These services had significant impact in helping women and adolescents and children cope with the trauma they have experienced, providing them with a safe space to express their emotions and receive support.

Child protection: The child protection efforts have had a deep and complex impact on both the Rohingya/FDMN and host communities. The creation of Multi-Purpose Child Adolescents Centers (MPCACs) and Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) has built a strong community-driven safety network that helps prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This is shown by a significant change in knowledge and behavior; adolescents now clearly express the difference between safe and unsafe touch and understand the risks of trafficking. Additionally, targeted awareness campaigns have led to a clear decline in child marriage, as parents and community leaders' step in to stop these practices. The high satisfaction rate of 90.1% with case management services highlights the success of this well-rounded approach, which has clearly improved children's safety, mental health, and overall quality of life.

Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls: Through vocational training in sewing and handicrafts, women and adolescents have gained valuable skills that have enabled them to contribute financially to their households.

This has not only improved their economic independence but has also shifted their roles within the family structure, empowering them and bringing confidence into them, making decisions and supporting their families financially.

Agency and Confidence: In this context, "agency" refers to the capacity of women and adolescent girls to make their own decisions and take action in their lives, particularly in relation to their economic independence and social choices. Agency signifies empowerment, where individuals have control over their actions, choices, and opportunities. Among the women and adolescents in the camp who reported involved in earning activities through sewing they have increased confidence and adolescent girls delayed early marriage due to income prospects.

4.3.2 Long-Term Cultural and Social Change:

The change in social norms and attitudes in the host communities and refugee camps is probably one of the most significant effects of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions. It has promoted a better understanding of child rights, gender equality, and community support through constant awareness-raising initiatives and the enthusiastic participation of local leaders. Involving adolescent, women, man in discussion about GBV, child marriage, child rights and has helped eliminate harming cultural norms and advance more inclusive and equitable social norms.

Menstrual Health: The girls adopted hygienic practices like using sanitary pads, drying cloths in sun etc. after attending the awareness session at school and camp. Women-friendly toilets and restroom reduced risk of absent in classroom and health risk significantly.

Community wide impact: Both community people, especially parents with adolescent daughters, attend an awareness session on GBV, SRH, Child marriage and preventive methods. Parents educated their daughters on SRH and GBV using methods taught by Good Neighbors Bangladesh. This helped create a positive environment in the camp, encouraging acceptance of women's engagement in income-generating activities within the community.

The program catalyzed profound, multidimensional change, proving that investing in women's safety and economic power transforms entire communities. Sustaining impact requires addressing structural barriers (e.g., mobility restrictions) and expanding inclusive programming.

In conclusion, Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions have had a transformative impact on the communities in Cox's Bazar. The reduction of GBV, improvement in menstrual hygiene practices, decline in child marriage, economic empowerment of women and improvement in psychosocial well-being of participants are all clear indicators of the success and impact of the organization's efforts. These changes have not only improved the immediate lives of individuals but have also contributed to long-term,

4.4 Sustainability:

A key component of humanitarian interventions is sustainability, which makes sure that the impact of the initiatives lasts long after the implementing organizations have ceased direct involvement. Through strategic planning, community engagement, capacity building, and cooperation with local actors, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has successfully incorporated sustainability into its interventions in the Rohingya/FDMN camps and host communities. The positive changes brought about by Good Neighbors Bangladesh's initiatives can be sustained and expanded in the long run thanks to the solid foundation these efforts have created.

Community Ownership and Empowerment: A key factor in ensuring the sustainability of interventions is the empowerment and active participation of the local communities. By engaging community leaders, such as religious figures and local authorities, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has ensured that its programs are not only accepted but also supported by the community. This community-led approach has allowed for the creation of local ownership of the initiatives, particularly in areas such as GBV prevention, child protection, and economic empowerment. In the host community the school managing body and the adolescents who use the restroom frequently have shown collective ownership approaches through cleaning the restroom by themselves.

Skill Retention: Transgender, women and adolescent received training in tailoring and continue earning using their skill. Some extend the participants share their skills with peers. The distribution of start-up kits and the provision of ongoing access to learning centers and materials have ensured that beneficiaries are not left without the resources needed to continue their work. While the camp circumstance had limited market access in sewing business most of the trainee's generated income in the camp through informal effort, which created financial resilience of the beneficiaries. In particular, the provision of sewing machines, crafting materials, and small business support has helped many women to develop income-generating activities that can be sustained within the camp setting.

Capacity Building and Local Leadership: The adolescent and women participants emerged as advocates, educating peers on MHM and rights. Through training and skill development programs, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has not only empowered women and adolescent but has also strengthened the local leadership of community members, including volunteers and local staff. By focusing on long-term capacity building, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has ensured that these stakeholders have the tools and knowledge to continue supporting their communities after the direct involvement of the organization.

Financial Sustainability and Funding Strategy: Good Neighbors Bangladesh has focused on creating programs with a diversified funding strategy to ensure financial sustainability. By engaging with international partners, local donors, and government agencies, They built a financial support base that can sustain the key aspects of its programs. The aim is to progressively reduce dependency on outside funding sources and move toward locally supported, community-driven solutions.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Long-Term Impact: Good Neighbors Bangladesh has established a strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track the long-term impact and sustainability of its programs. Frequent assessments of the outcomes and effectiveness of interventions help to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the programs continue to meet the changing needs of the community. The M&E system also ensures that the data gathered from beneficiaries is used to guide future programming, making the interventions more adaptable and responsive to changing conditions.

By empowering local communities, ensuring skill retention, and fostering local leadership, Good Neighbors Bangladesh has created a foundation for long-lasting change. The organization's efforts to build financial sustainability and established monitoring and evaluation system further enhance the sustainability and adaptability of its programs. These initiatives not only ensure that the positive impact continues beyond Good Neighbors Bangladesh's direct involvement but also pave the way for community-driven solutions, ensuring that the beneficiaries can sustain and expand their progress for years to come.

4.5 Recommendations:

To improve the long-term impact, coherence, and sustainability of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's intervention in Cox's Bazar, the following recommendations are organized by key thematic areas: Protection (GBV and Child Protection), MHPSS, Livelihoods, and Cross-cutting Strategies.

Each category begins with overarching strategic priorities, followed by specific actionable steps.

A. Protection (GBV and Child Protection):

Strategic Recommendations:

- Keep integrating GBV prevention and response as an essential part of all community programs. Make sure that both refugee and host communities get equitable services.
- Strengthen community-based protection systems, including CBCPCs, Majhi, and religious leaders, networks, and women's committees. This will improve early identification, referral, and mediation of GBV and child protection cases.
- Increase the engagement of male and accountability efforts (e.g., EMAP) to address harmful gender norms, domestic conflict, and violence within families.

Specific Actions:

- Extend GBV interventions in camps 14 to 16 and expand to other sites. Focus on sensitizing both male and female family members on peaceful conflict resolution and non-violent communication.
- Sustain Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) and ensure safe, confidential access to case management, legal aid referral, and counseling.
- Strengthen child protection services with regular CBCPC refresher training, structured follow-up, and inclusion of children with disabilities in all activities.
- Improve outreach and awareness for reporting pathways so survivors and families know how to seek support safely.

B. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):

Strategic Recommendations:

- Make psychosocial wellbeing a priority in both camp and host community interventions.
- Encourage inclusive, stigma-free mental health education for children, teenagers, and caregivers.

Specific Actions:

- Integrate mental health services in schools, especially in host communities, to support adolescents facing distress or trauma.
- Provide continuous training for counselors, teachers, and volunteers on trauma-informed care and Psychological First Aid.
- Strengthen safe spaces (WFS and MPCAC) as places for recreational therapy, peer groups, and creative expression to help reduce anxiety and isolation.
- Develop referral linkage with local health facilities to ensure continuous care for severe mental health cases.

C. Women's Economic Empowerment:

Strategic Recommendations:

- Promote economic empowerment as a way to achieve dignity and protection for women, adolescents, and marginalized groups.
- Offer a variety of income-generating opportunities beyond tailoring to lessen saturation and dependence.

Specific Actions:

- Introducing training in trades such as embroidery, handicrafts, electronic/mobile mechanics, small business management.
- Provide start-up kits and personal sewing machines to trained women to enable independent practice and earn income.
- Strengthening connections with local entrepreneurs(markets within the camps) and vendors in the Rohingya/FDMN to increase product sales within camp boundaries.
- Facilitate inclusive livelihood programs that involve person with disabilities (PWD) and transgender individuals to foster equity and acceptance.

D. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM):

Strategic Recommendations:

- Sustain menstrual hygiene education as part of health and dignity promotion.
- Reduce stigma through awareness activities that include men and boys.

Specific Actions:

- Continue MHM awareness sessions in both camp and host communities. Emphasizing hygienic practices and encourage open conversation.
- Expand construction of women-friendly toilets and restrooms in schools and public spaces. Ensure they have privacy, water, and disposal facilities.
- Provide dignity kits and hygiene materials consistently to ensure continuity of healthy practices.
- Include MHM messages in community discussions and life skills education for adolescents and parents.

E. Cross-Cutting and Programmatic Recommendations:

Strategic Recommendations:

- Enhance sustainability through capacity building of local actors and gradual transition to community-led management.
- Strengthen Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) to track behavioral and cultural changes more effectively.
- Encourage multi-sectoral collaboration among local government, NGOs, and community networks for coordinated service delivery.

Specific Actions:

- Train community volunteers and CBCPC members in leadership, gender sensitivity, and safeguarding.
- Use beneficiary feedback and participatory monitoring to keep programming based on data.
- Reach out to underserved rural areas of Cox's Bazar to close service gaps in hygiene, protection, and education.
- Support social cohesion initiatives that connect host and refugee communities through joint activities and peer learning.

By organizing future interventions within these thematic areas, Good Neighbors Bangladesh can ensure better strategic coordination between protection (GBV & CP) psychosocial wellbeing, and women economic empowerment. Focusing on building skills, inclusivity, and coordination across multi sectors will not only maintain the progress made but also enhance the community-based foundation for lasting resilience and empowerment in Cox's Bazar.



CONCLUSION

The interventions of Good Neighbors Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar have shown remarkable success in addressing key challenges faced by vulnerable populations, especially the Rohingya/FDMN camp and host communities. Through a focused approach on gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, and the overall well-being of women, children, and adolescents, Good Neighbor Bangladesh has made strong march in fostering a safer, healthier, and more resilient community. The organization's efforts have had a profound impact, especially in the areas of child protection services, psychosocial support, and GBV awareness. The establishment of women-friendly spaces (WFS), multi-purpose child and adolescent centers (MPCAC), and the community-based child protection committees (CBCPC) have been instrumental in reducing incidents of GBV, promoting positive social norms, and ensuring that children and families receive critical support services. The participation of local authorities, religious leaders, and community leaders in these initiatives has improved the community's faith in the interventions and reinforced collective duty to protect the most vulnerable. A key aspect of Good Neighbors Bangladesh's work has been its emphasis on community empowerment. Through gender-transformative programs, the organization has been able to shift cultural attitudes, challenging harmful norms and practices such as child marriage and discrimination against women. The success of these initiatives is evident in the growing awareness of women and men in the community about their rights and responsibilities, particularly in relation to GBV and child protection. According to community leaders, the decline in child marriage cases is evidence of the effectiveness of community involvement and education in bringing about long-lasting change.

Moreover, Good Neighbors Bangladesh's focus on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) has led to significant improvements in the health and dignity of women and adolescent girls. Girls can now manage their menstrual health safely and with dignity thanks to Good Neighbors Bangladesh's efforts to reduce the stigma associated with menstruation by building girl-friendly restrooms, educating people about menstrual health, and granting access to sanitary products. These interventions not only addressed the immediate needs of the community but also contributed to changing societal perceptions about menstruation and women's health. The collaboration between Good Neighbors Bangladesh, local government bodies, and other humanitarian partners has played a critical role in the effectiveness and sustainability of these projects. Case management, psychosocial support, and community mobilization are all part of the multi-sectoral approach, which indicates that the interventions are comprehensive and meet the various needs of the populations they serve. Furthermore, the establishment of referral pathways and support mechanisms, including the involvement of Majhi (camp leaders) and the local community, ensures that survivors of violence have access to timely and adequate support. Nevertheless, difficulties still exist in spite of the significant achievements. Concerns about the prevalence of GBV and child protection issues persist, especially on continuous refugee crisis and the complex socioeconomic circumstances in Cox's Bazar. The study emphasizes that although there has been progress in reducing the rate of GBV, more work is required to maintain and expand on the gains that have been made. The existence of social stigma, lack of awareness in certain areas, and the ongoing vulnerabilities of the Rohingya/FDMN and host communities necessitate ongoing interventions. Looking forward, it is important for Good Neighbors Bangladesh to lead its work in Cox's Bazar, focusing on expanding successful programs and addressing emerging needs. Expanding menstrual hygiene management programs, improving access to educational opportunities for girls, and strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms should remain priorities. Additionally, long-term cultural and social change achievement also depends on getting more men and boys involved in conversations about gender equality, child marriage, and GBV.

In conclusion, thousands of refugees and members of the host community have been impacted by Good Neighbors Bangladesh's interventions in Cox's Bazar. Good Neighbors Bangladesh has created protective and supportive environment for the most vulnerable through community engagement, empowerment and the providing of essential services. The organization lays the groundwork for future advancements in attaining sustainable change in Cox's Bazar through its work in GBV prevention, child protection. It also serves as a model for community-driven humanitarian response.

Annex-1 Researcher profile

Muhammad Mahbubul Islam Bhuiyan Lead Researcher

Muhammad Mahbubul Islam Bhuiyan is a seasoned researcher and public health expert with over 25 years of experience in qualitative and quantitative research, program evaluation, and nutrition interventions. As the Founder and Director of Operations at the Centre for Qualitative Research (CQR), he leads high-impact studies and mentors' teams to generate evidence-based insights for policy and practice.

His expertise spans mixed-method research, ethnography, implementation science, and social behavior change communication (SBCC). He has collaborated with international organizations like IFPRI, WHO, GAIN, and UNICEF, focusing on maternal and child health, adolescent nutrition, and gender equity. Notable projects include formative research for nutrition governance, feasibility studies for immunization platforms, and evaluations of livelihood programs in marginalized communities.

Mr. Bhuiyan holds a BSS and MSS in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University and has served as an adjunct faculty member, teaching qualitative research methods and public health. His work is published in peer-reviewed journals, and he is committed to ethical social change and sustainable development in Bangladesh and beyond.

Contact: founder@cqr.org.bd | LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/mmibhuiyan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mmibhuiyan)

Md Zahir Research Manager

Md. Zahir is an experienced anthropologist and research manager with over 8 years of expertise in research design, data collection, and analysis. He holds BSS and MSS degrees in Anthropology. Zahir has contributed to a variety of project evaluation, formative research and particularly in mixed-method designs, focusing on programme evaluation and organizational capacity assessment. He has been involved in multiple projects evaluation of different international/national organization research related to Gender base violence, Child safety, and Socio-economic empowerment in camp and host community. Zahir has also published work on women's vulnerabilities in the garment sector and has demonstrated expertise in proposal development, research design, and data analysis tools such as NVivo and STATA.



Impact Study of Good Neighbors Bangladesh for FDMN and Host Communities

Printed	Nov 2025
Published	Nov 2025
Publisher	Good Neighbors Bangladesh
Graphics Design	Communication Team
Reference No	GNB/MA Department /1225182
Address	Plot #5, Road #2, Block #A, Swadesh Shornaly Abashon Purbachal Express Highway, Barua, Khilket, Dhaka
IP Phone:	+88 09 6138 58585
