



EDUCATION

BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

Nearly half of the 540,000 children ages 3-14 living in the world's largest refugee camp do not have access to education. Of these, 343,000 children need immediate child protection assistance. They face serious risks, including psychosocial distress, neglect, abuse, separation from caregivers, sexual violence, child marriage, child labour and trafficking. Girls are particularly vulnerable to child marriage, sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect.

A reported 97 percent of all adolescents and youth age 15-24 also lack any kind of education or vocational training. Education and skills training opportunities are limited in the camps and there is no standardized curriculum or training certification available.

To address this, in partnership with UNICEF, World Vision is providing integrated child protection and basic informal education services to children and adolescents across the camps.

DONOR

unicef 

BUDGET & DURATION



\$ 4.9 MILLION



12 MONTHS



8,400

adolescent boys and girls age 15-18 will benefit from foundational and pre-vocational skills training, including numeracy, literacy and life skills-based education at 21 multi-purpose child and adolescent centres. Boys are learning technical skills, such as solar panel repair, and girls are trained in tailoring.



34,650

children will benefit from child protection services, including structured psychosocial support, community-based child protection support, awareness campaigns and case management.



3,840

children age 3-14 attending 11 learning centres will benefit from informal education.



48,910

parents and leaders will participate in training and awareness sessions on child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, as well as education and social cohesion.

IMPACT

Children and adolescents have access to integrated child protection and informal education services, a path forward for their futures.

SUPPORT COUNTRIES





SHAHED WANTS HIS EDUCATION BACK NOW by Shabir Hussain

As a photographer and videographer for World Vision, I have met many children here in world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. I've covered this humanitarian crisis since the first days in August 2017 when more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees began pouring across the border from Myanmar into my country.

Today, almost 1 million refugees live in the camp. More than half of them are children. But I've not met a boy quite like 14-year-old Shahed.

Speaking English fluently, he stepped out of a crowd of children and kept asking me questions. We didn't need a Rohingya-English interpreter to continue our conversation. I quickly felt like I was talking with my younger brother. Shahed wanted to talk about his education. He told me that he is desperate to get back to school.

"I completed Grade 5 in Myanmar. After the violence broke out, we fled to Bangladesh, and I left my education behind," says Shahed. "I used to go to a school in the camp run by Rohingya teachers, but it closed."

Shahed and other Rohingya refugee children have been out of school for almost two years.

As we talked, Shahed urged me to follow him to his house. He said he wanted to show me something. I was curious. After entering in his home, he brought me all his Grade 6 books that he managed to carry with him from Myanmar. He started reading from them randomly. He told me his favorite subject is English.

"If the situation goes on without us getting education, I would rather die. I can't get a good job if I can't get an education. I will have to dig dirt as day labourer," says Shahed.

When I was a boy like Shahed, my parents sent me and my five brothers to a good school with all kinds of facilities. The government provided free books up to Grade 5. At university, I completed my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in pharmacy. Then I decided to switch careers completely. I studied graphic design, videography and photography at a training institution. Now, it's my passion. Without an education, I wouldn't be working as a World Vision communications specialist today—a job I love.

Education can change the future for thousands of refugee children like Shahed. Thankfully, he is one of 186 students enrolled in World Vision's new vocational training programme. "The centre opened four months ago, and I have been coming ever since," says Shahed. "We are studying math, English, grammar and Burmese."

Shahed has a long wish list for his future. "To serve people, I want to be a doctor. I also want to be teacher so that I can help the children of our community to be educated," he says. "And I want to be engineer so that I can make airplanes, and people will be able to go abroad."

Shahed is not alone. Thousands of Rohingya children are waiting to wear a new school uniform and enter a classroom with a backpack full of books. Like children everywhere, they deserve a quality education. I'm hoping someday that Shahed will graduate from university, become a photographer and tell the story of his community to the world.