

Nine Years of SRHR Care in the World's Largest Refugee Camp

Emergency SRH Response for Rohingya Refugees & Strengthening MR-PAC-FP



Funding Partner (Ongoing):

UNFPA
(October 2017 – 2026)

Past Donors (Projects Completed):

- David and Lucile Packard Foundation (January 2018 to June 2023)
- Global Affairs Canada (April 2020 to March 2022)
- Anonymous Donor (September 2019 to December 2022)

Budget:

USD 11.5 million
(October 2017 – 2026, combined)

Background and Objective

Since 2017, following the massive influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh, Ipas Bangladesh has partnered with UNFPA to ensure access to family planning (FP), menstrual regulation (MR), and postabortion care (PAC) services in humanitarian settings in Cox's Bazar, amid one of the world's most protracted humanitarian emergencies. Ipas has since expanded its donor partnerships and grown into a key provider of abortion, contraception, and gender based violence (GBV) programming, currently supports FP, MR, and PAC services directly through 54 health facilities, with programmatic reach spanning 34 camp areas (including Bhasan Char), up from 2 camps at project start. Facility based service coverage spans 27 camps, while Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) team outreach across all 34.

Beyond service delivery, Ipas strengthens the capacity of partner NGOs and healthcare providers, works within camps to raise SRHR knowledge, encourage care seeking, reduce stigma and service access barriers. Since 2022, this has been advanced through a dedicated SBCC team strengthening the knowledge and skills of community health workers, religious leaders, and local leaders. To address sociocultural barriers to family planning, Ipas coordinates with the Islamic Foundation, the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp-in-Charge (CiC) offices, and local DGFP to mobilize SBCC initiatives, including engagement with Imams and Majhees (Community Leaders), to raise community awareness and foster a supportive environment, particularly through engaging men in seeking SRHR services.

Jointly with UNFPA, Ipas has also provided technical support to develop the national FP strategy for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN - the Government of Bangladesh's official term for Rohingya refugees), bringing humanitarian partner organizations under a shared framework for FP service delivery. Ipas's humanitarian response further includes trauma informed GBV programming, training health, social service, law enforcement, education, and judicial professionals in survivor centered GBV response and case management. Since 2020, Ipas has supported GBV survivors through needs identification, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services, and informed consent based referrals.

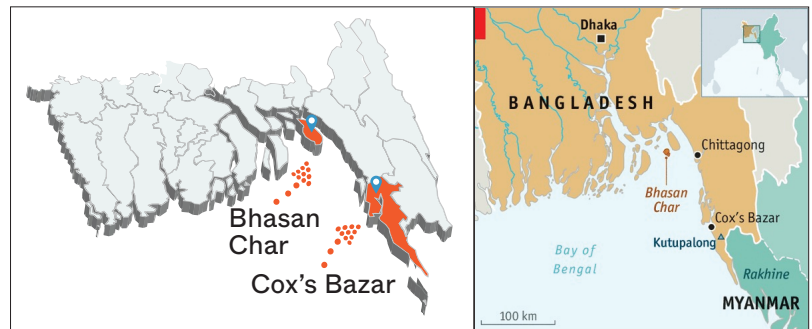
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Geographic Areas

- Cox's Bazar
- Bhasan Char

Areas of Focus

- SRHR (FP, MR, PAC)
- GBV
- Capacity Building



Key results

- **554** doctors and **834** mid-level providers (MLPs) trained
- **799683** FP services delivered
- **66411** MR and PAC services delivered
- **FP strategy** for FDMN developed



Partners

Government

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's (MoHFW) following directorates:
 - Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
 - Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP)
- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
 - Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC)
- Ministry of Religious Affairs' statutory body:
 - Islamic Foundation

International NGOs

- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Save the Children
- CARE Bangladesh
- Muslim Hands International
- BRAC

UN Agencies

- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

National/Local Organizations

- Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)
- Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP)
- Research Training and Management International (RTMI)
- Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)
- Gonoshasthya Kendra
- Friendship
- Mukti Cox's Bazar
- Association for Socio Economic Advancement of Bangladesh (ASEAB)