



NURTURING CHANGE

SBCC Program in the Rohingya Community





Photo courtesy: Imran Zahed

The objective of the SBCC program is to raise awareness about Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in the Rohingya community by mobilizing the existing community workforce and educating key influencers with the goal to improve the service-seeking behavior of Rohingya people.

In the humanitarian setting of Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, Ipas developed edutainment tools to engage community health workers, Rohingya men and religious leaders to increase access to family planning (FP), menstrual regulation (MR) and post abortion care (PAC) services using human-centered design principles. Ipas's SBCC initiative utilizes various approaches including advocacy, training, collaboration, and monitoring to effectively engage the community.

Challenge scenario from the community

"When I talk to my husband about my health and the well-being of our child, he coldly dismisses me, saying he married me to take care of him and bear his children. He tells me, 'I will not listen to you! You will do as I say,' leaving me feeling unheard and powerless."-says Jamila, a Rohingya woman from Thaingkhali camp.

"Maulana Kalim Ullah, a Rohingya Imam from Ukhiya Camp, was initially dismissive and uncooperative, refusing to discuss Family Planning with us. He urged other Imams to reject our efforts,

claiming Islam does not support FP methods (Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives-LARC)."

-Says Rafiqul Islam, Camp SBCC Officer

"Community Health Worker Tahura Akter (19) lives in Ukhiya Upazilla. In her personal life, she had never known about family planning and menstrual regulation. Initially, she felt it was sinful to discuss these topics as an unmarried girl, even considering quitting her NGO job multiple times. However, through training and her family's insistence, she overcame her doubts and continued her work."-Says Rafiqul Islam, Camp SBCC Officer

"Brother, go away. We don't want to talk about or listen to these kinds of things here!"-Says a Rohingya block leader.

Initiating Change

OUR ACTIONS

THROUGH THE LENS

CHW ENGAGEMENT:

Ipas's SBCC officers capacitate the Community Health Workers (CHW) and Community Health Volunteers (CHV) of different partner NGOs in developing their knowledge of family planning message and how to disseminate this message to the Rohingya community.



Photo courtesy: Md. Hashem CHW, GK

Morning session with CHW at Camp 2 East



Photo courtesy: Md. Farid, CHW, PHD

Morning session with CHW at Camp 9



Photo courtesy: Md. Abdullah Ibne Abu Bakar Adar
Camp SBCC Officer

IMPACT

CHW is counseling a Rohingya woman about the FP method

IMPACT



Photo courtesy: M.Rashedul Qader, SBCC Field Officer

In Bhasan Char, a community health and nutrition worker is counseling the Rohingya community about the family planning method

IMAM ENGAGEMENT:

In the Rohingya camp area, Imams (people who lead prayers in a mosque) hold significant influence within the Rohingya community. To increase awareness and accessibility of SRH in humanitarian situations, Ipas Bangladesh has developed an innovative approach that heavily involves Rohingya Imams. The SBCC team of Ipas regularly sets up easy-to-understand workshops



Photo courtesy: Md. Mominur Rahman, SBCC Camp Officer

Imam orientation meeting

about family planning in the Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char camps. They team up with the CiCs (Camp In-Charge, representatives from office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner-RRRC) and Bangladesh Islamic Foundation to make it happen. In the orientation sessions- Rohingya Imams learn about the importance of family planning, and later, they convey this message during their regular communication inside and outside the mosque and during Friday sermons.



Photo courtesy: Moulavi Md. Hossen, Rohingya Imam

One to one session
with an Imam
inside a
Rohingya
camp mosque



Photo courtesy: Md. Shamim, CHW
MUKTI, Cox's Bazar



Photo courtesy: Monika Aahelee, Communications & Content Creation Coordinator, Ipas Bangladesh

Planning workshop with Imams from the Islamic foundation

IMPACT



Photo courtesy: Jaw Jaw U, Camp SBCC Officer

A trained Rohingya Imam is disseminating FP message inside of a Rohingya camp Maktab

MAJHI ENGAGEMENT

Majhi, a term in the Rohingya language, refers to a community block leader in Rohingya community. These leaders advocate for their people within the camp areas. Majhis are found in every block of the camp. The SBCC team regularly conducts different types of family planning



Photo courtesy: Md. Anowar, Volunteer, Site Management

An SBCC officer is in a conversation with Majhis

orientation workshops for Majhis in the CiC office. Majhis get oriented about the significance of family planning. Subsequently, they disseminate this important message throughout the Rohingya community.



Photo courtesy: Md. Hasan Ali, Volunteer, Site Management

Majhi discussing at block after getting orientation

IMPACT



Photo courtesy: Firoz Ahmed, CHW, Save the Children

One to one discussion by a Majhi with support of SBCC officer

FEMALE ENGAGEMENT:

To improve the SRH knowledge and the decision making capacity of Rohingya women, SBCC teams collaborate in different meetings and courtyard sessions.



Photo courtesy: Md. Anwar, CHW, PHD

An SBCC officer is in a conversation with Rohingya women

IMPACT

Discussion about family planning among a female religious group (Talim)



Photo courtesy: Fathema Akther
Camp SBCC Officer

A Rohingya woman is receiving Family Planning Service from health center



Photo courtesy: Arjina Begum, CHW, IRC

VISIBLE PROGRESS

“After talking with the CHW, my husband agreed and allowed me to go to the hospital with Apa. The next day, I called Apa and went with her to the Ipas center to receive a long-term family planning method. Alhamdulillah, since then, I have been happy with my husband, family, and children after receiving the FP method.”

-says Jamila, a Rohingya woman from Thaingkhali camp.

“Now Maulana Kalim Ullah requests other Imams to deliver messages about Family Planning services among the community people, and when he delivers the Khutba, he also talks about FP, referencing the Quran.”

-says Rafiqul Islam, Camp SBCC Officer.

“Now, the CHW worker conducts sessions on these topics at the block level, provides counseling, and refers clients, helping to increase our family planning services.”

-says Rafiqul Islam, Camp SBCC Officer.

“After attending several meetings, I was able to correct my misconceptions and change my perspective.”

- says a Rohingya block leader.