

Overview of services available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in Bangladesh

Mapping of the capacities of the United Nations to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse focused on the humanitarian operations in Cox's Bazar where United Nations entities provide assistance directly to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, in addition to referring victims to services provided by implementing partners. United Nations entities facilitate, coordinate and provide direct assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse through regular programming and services designed for victims/survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate observed the absence of dedicated services or funds to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and suggested that an assessment of the need for such services be undertaken. United Nations entities participating in the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar have established pathways to refer victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to the existing services that are available to GBV victims/survivors and have mapped service providers available for cases of GBV. Gaps were observed in the services available, particularly provision of safety and protection, and legal services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. More support is needed to develop capacities to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in the development operations in the country.



Kutupalong Refugee Camp, December 2019, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Photo ISCG/S. Mojumder

Findings and recommendations on the United Nation assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse

- While **dedicated services** for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse **were not identified**, **United Nations entities** reported they **provide assistance to victims/survivors through GBV case-management services**, accompanying them through the existing services listed in the GBV referral pathway. Services are provided by United Nations entities directly and through implementing partners. Assistance to victims living in camps is limited to what is available in these settlements, provided through the State, or the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar by United Nations entities and other service providers.
- The **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network**, established in 2017 in **Cox's Bazar**, covers humanitarian operations in camps established for the **Rohingya and host communities** and serves as the primary body for coordination, support and oversight of its member organizations. The Network, co-chaired by the Inter Sector Coordination Group, IOM and UNICEF, is supported by **a dedicated international PSEA Coordinator**, and **a dedicated national PSEA Officer**. United Nations entities nominate focal points to participate in the Network.
- National multi-sectoral programmes on violence against women and girls, including its One-Stop Crisis Centres and the National Human Rights Commission, are able to assist victims according to their mandates.
- The **need to reinforce victims' assistance**, including through **follow-up**, informed by **victims' feedback** was identified.



- The adoption of a **system-wide tracking and monitoring mechanism for victims' assistance** consistently used and regularly updated should be considered. This mechanism should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.
- United Nations entities should **consider the creation of a contingency fund to facilitate victims' support and assistance**. Opportunities for joint fundraising by United Nations Country Team members from United Nations funding facilities and mechanisms should be explored.