

Lessons from Reflective Practitioners on Parenting during Humanitarian Crisis:

An exploration of the obstacles and opportunities for parents to facilitate their children's development within Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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Background and Context



The FDMN have been facing statelessness and persecution for decades



40% of families are struggling to access adequate food supply



Denied citizenship in Myanmar (1982 citizenship law) and **not recognized as refugees** in Bangladesh (1951 Refugee Convention nor its 1967 Protocol)



12% children suffering from acute malnutrition



Living in 34 camps in Cox's Bazar, 52% are children



Inadequate living space, food, water and healthcare



Funding cuts by WFP to 8 USD from 12 USD per week per family



Lack of livelihood opportunities, parental support and opportunities for children to play and learn



Objectives:

- To understand practitioner perspectives of parental challenges in humanitarian crises
- To identify actionable solutions for enhanced support



Study Questions:

1. What are the unique challenges faced by parents in the Rohingya camps during the humanitarian crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh?
2. How can support systems be enhanced to improve the development of children in the Rohingya camps during the humanitarian crisis, according to professionals?
3. How can the recommendations of professionals form the basis for future advocacy efforts to ensure sustainable support for parents and caregivers in humanitarian contexts?



Methodology

Interview

- Interviews were conducted with national and international experts in early childhood development and parenting.
- A total of eight professionals were interviewed, both in-person and online.
- Aimed to interview parents, unable to do so because of time/ethical constraints, current study is therefore a foundation.
- The interviews generally lasted one hour each.

Secondary Review

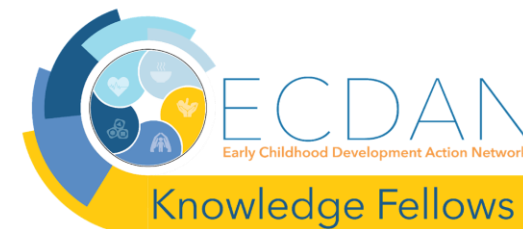
- Review of relevant research and literature was carried out.

Study Tool

- Key Informant Interview (KII) tool was employed for gathering professional insights.



Key Findings



Environmental Challenges and Uncertainty

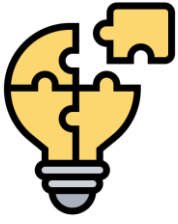
- Parents struggle with decisions about the future of children due to overcrowded living conditions and uncertainty.
- Reductions in funding affect the nutrition and overall well-being of Rohingya children.
- The scarcity of recreational activities influences parenting practices.
- Families find it challenging to adapt to a new cultural and social environment.
- Parents grapple with practical issues such as inadequate access to nutrition, essential services, and opportunities for income generation.

Psychosocial Impact on Children and Families

- Children exhibit signs of distress and changes in behavior.
- Male refugees with no income-generating activities exhibit more severe symptoms of distress.
- Dependency on food assistance leads to child labor and trafficking within families.
- There is a lack of awareness regarding child development and insufficient parental involvement.

Socioeconomic Constraints and Community Dynamics

- The Rohingya parents confront a 'no-win' situation, with no opportunity for livelihood activities outside the camp.
- Families depend only on food assistance, leading to child labor, trafficking, etc.



Potential Solutions



Enhance integrated support systems for both children and parents.

Apply evidence-based frameworks such as the HPL Model, Integrated ECD Model.

Initiate home-based interventions for expectant mothers and mothers with young children.

Utilize technology-driven solutions for education on parenting.

Develop community capabilities to bolster the primary support network.

Pay attention to the insights, experiences, challenges, and necessities of parents.

Promote feedback mechanisms to inform service design and implementation.



Recommendations



Partnerships and Community Engagement

Establishing partnerships with local organizations and community members to facilitate implementation of parent support programs.

Engaging with Rohingya parents (both fathers and mothers) to gather feedback and ensure responsive support initiatives.

Integrated Parenting Programs and Support

Designing and launching integrated parenting programs building on the Nurturing Care Framework.

Drawing on evidence from other crises about the importance of caregiver support.

Addressing multiple issues in programming for parents, including livelihoods, gender relations, responsive caregiving, nutrition, health, play, and learning.

Advocate and Policy Change

Creating evidence to advocate for policy changes using global evidence about programming for parents.

Advocating for increased funding and resources from global funders, UN agencies, and governments to support integrated parenting programs.



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