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Rohingya refugee girls in a flooded part of Shamlapur refugee camp.

Inside the camp, high levels of gender-based violence and domestic violence have been reported. While beyond the camp perimeter, Rohingya children (and girls in particular) are at risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking, and child labour – illegal practices that have long been prevalent in Cox's Bazar.

In response, UNICEF and its protection partners are working to expand their case management work, focusing on adolescent girls, including many who participate in adolescents' clubs. Around 60,000 adolescent girls and boys have joined the clubs in refugee camps and local communities, which offer them access to life-skills, and knowledge about child rights, alternatives to marriage, under-age hazardous labour, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial support and other issues.

Rohingya community members sometimes take steps of their own to protect those they deem most at risk – especially adolescent girls who are commonly confined to their homes as soon as they experience their first period (see page 13).

The practice of girls marrying in their early teens is another that the Rohingya – a deeply conservative society – have brought with them to Bangladesh. According to Child

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Protection Specialist, Shaila Parveen Luna, trying to convince Rohingya families to allow their daughters to mature physically and emotionally before marriage is difficult.

"We discuss it with the mothers but they are not convinced," says Luna. "But at least we are breaking the silence on such issues."