

## Children's Safe Haven by JAAGO Foundation

### BACKGROUND

To contribute in the humanitarian crisis management of Rohingya refugees', government of Bangladesh has been taking many initiatives, which are appreciated worldwide. A number of UN organizations, national and international NGOs are providing various immediate support for the Rohingya refugees.

### SITUATION

JAAGO Foundation and Major Mohammed Sayesta Khan (Retd) are collaboratively working on the Safe Haven project in a camp located in Unchiprang, Putibonia, Whaikkong, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In this camp, currently, the estimated Rohingya Refugee population is 21,314. From that population safe haven is providing support to **500 children where girls and boys are respectively 244 and 256.**

The JAAGO Children's Safe Haven is a secure and caring environment where children affected by conflict and crisis can learn, develop and feel secure. Research shows that regular access to caring and predictable learning spaces can have a profound and lasting impact on children's learning and well-being. To be effective, the activities and lessons that take place in the Children's Safe Haven include an explicit focus on social and emotional learning, which are delivered by trained facilitators.

### GOALS

- Offer a stable environment to support the psychological trauma of children.
- Alleviate or counteract post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Offer developmentally appropriate learning experiences.

### THE PROGRAM

Our program is designed to strengthen cognitive learning, emotion regulation, social skills development, conflict resolution, and perseverance. The intervention is delivered through structured two-hour sessions that include a 15-minute opening activity, 20-min freehand exercise, 70-minute games and creative activities, 15-minute closing activity.

Personal safety and hygiene lessons are part of everyday activities.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Children's Safe Haven is separated into three parts- **Digital-zone**, **Play-zone**, and **Creative & Learning-zone**.

In the **play-zone**, children are encouraged to participate in various informal play in the play-zone. Children do different physical activities and play indoor games, share various memorable experiences, act out, sing, recite and perform dances. Through the arts we are building confidence and encouraging them to use their imagination.

In the **creative and learning zone**, children learn basic life skills, drawing, rhymes, story telling, etc. In addition, children do some logic activities with more structured play. During this time, they also learn general knowledge, ways to stay safe, hygiene and manners, and conflict resolution skills. Structured education is in the following areas: English, math and Burmese (by Rohingya teacher), and Arabic class.

In the **digital-zone**, recreational and informative child-friendly cartoons or documentaries are shown. Children watch recreational and informative child-friendly videos and documentaries to enjoy, and to develop emotional regulation and positive social skills. Different educational videos on the following subjects are shown: manners, hygiene, nutrition, how to respond to a natural disaster.

## COUNSELING

In the JAAGO Safe Haven project we provide counseling support to handle different psychological needs of the children. A counselor visits Safe Haven project zone once a month to hold workshops and support the children. The goal is that the counselor supports the children's transition to their current situation.

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