

Child Protection Camp Focal Point Case Study in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Background:

Samaj Kallyan O Unnoyon Sangstha (SKUS) is a non-profit, non-government and non-political voluntary community development organization legally registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh. SKUS received funding from 'Kinder not Hilfe/Amurt' ([KNH](#)) in 2019 to support a local Child Protection Focal Point. KNH prioritizes funding for local actors, and they work to develop and support child rights-based modules for intensive support to local actors. They also strengthen the capacity of local partner organizations and support local staff capacity development. Their support helped SKUS to become involved with the child protection sector work and help to create leadership opportunities.

SKUS experienced a funding delay and uncertainty from KNH due to COVID-19 in 2020. This was mitigated by the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility ([CP AoR](#)) & [Street Child](#) through a 6-month Child Protection Focal Point (CPFP) funding. If this funding and technical support was not received, SKUS and the populations they serve would have faced many difficulties, including continuing to host the Child Protection Focal Point. The lack of this position would have created significant gaps in supporting Rohingya refugee children. The SKUS Child Protection Focal Point funded by the Global CP AoR and Street Child is working in Refugee Camp 17 and deals with child protection issues. If funding was available to increase the local leadership in other refugee camps, SKUS could use further funding in Camp 5 where SKUS have already started child protection support using their own organisation's funds.

Country Context:

The Child Protection Focal Point plays an important role in the protection of children in the country context of Bangladesh and especially in the Rohingya refugee camps. During the COVID-19 situation, child marriage, child labour, sexual and physical abuse, and other child-related issues are increasing daily, across both the Rohingya refugee camp and nationally across Bangladesh. To reduce these kinds of child protection issues, the Child Protection Focal Point is an important and dedicated position to provide emergency support to the children. The main duty of the Child Protection Focal Point is to work and coordinate with all the Child Protection actors in the Rohingya camp daily. If this role must stop due to lack of funding, there might be a high risk for the children not getting appropriate support. In that case, a new CPFP from another agency would need to be trained from scratch which takes a long time to build up communication with all actors and would create a poor child protection response.

According to SKUS: 'If they can secure long-time funding for the Child Protection Focal Point then we would get positive feedback from all the stakeholders specifically from the children'. Another point is 'if there remains some confusion about project extension, project staff might take this uncertainty and they want to move to another project or organization in a secured position.' Therefore, if the Child Protection Focal Point project timeline is for at least 2 years, then the staff feel secure for 2 years, and staff capacity is built in child protection things in a sustainable way.

Achievements:

The much-needed six months funding from the Global CP AoR & Street Child allowed SKUS to continue child protection support during COVID-19, which was critical given the huge child protection needs related to lockdown and the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the Rohingya refugee camp. [KNH](#) is also supporting SKUS continuously, and this combined with the Global CPAoR & Street Child funding improved the response. KNH is a child rights-based organization working with SKUS from the first of their activity in the Rohingya refugee camp. Initially, there was no Child Protection Focal Point but SKUS proposed to this funder to recruit a 100% dedicated focal point to deal with camp level CP responses. If any child abuse issues emerge, the Child Protection Focal Point uses the child rights module and then SKUS can immediately support this case anytime on an emergency basis where other CP actor could not.

Methodology:

The CP focal point position was created during a host community-related project (42 months, started from November 2019 funded by [KNH](#)), but SKUS got the confirmation in November about this CPFP funding in the Rohingya refugee camp. However, the breakout of COVID-19 delayed the funding. In the meantime, SKUS requested funding from Street Child. If SKUS did not get funding from the Global CPAoR/Street Child, then they would not have been able to continue the support of Child Protection Focal Point in Rohingya refugee camp 17. SKUS is now also working in camp 5 for the last 4 months using their own funds and is looking to get donor support for a further year to continue. In camp 17, their camp focal point is working in the field level dealing with child protection issues and is available in the camp to support. Their camp focal point returned a lost child to his/her family already and intervened in some of the early marriage cases. Only SKUS's camp focal point is now working in the field level directly and dealing with child protection cases at a maximum level whereas other organizations are only part-time camp focal points.

Challenges:

According to SKUS at the field level, they faced a lot of movement restrictions due to COVID-19. Another challenge is that as the project closes within 6 months and if they cannot arrange for other donors to fund that project, it will have negative impacts on the beneficiaries. Thus, it is a recommendation from SKUS to donors who are working with children, adolescents, and women to increase the funding duration by at least 2 years to get sustainable result. If other donors also take this positively and plan for a long time, it will promote greater service continuity, thereby helping the children and community further improve their individual and community resilience.

SKUS is thankful to the Global CP AoR and Street Child for the technical and financial support which increased coordination and leadership capacities. They appreciate Street Child for the positive support, and it is a good sign for all partner organizations that Street Child has been respectful and extremely supportive. It encourages other partner organizations to work with Street Child more collaboratively and actively in the future.

Annex: CPFP Case Study Questionnaires

- How was the co-lead supported in this role before this funding?
- What was their plan and strategy for accessing new funding?
- How were they able to convince the funder to provide the funding?
- Who was the funder who gave them this funding?
- What is the impact on this extension of funding and what does it allow them to achieve in this role?
- Any other comments and support for this case study and how they think other agencies can learn from this and replicate this funding sustainability in their context.