

***Adapting a Parenting Program to Reduce Violent Discipline
in the World's Largest Refugee Camp***

Angie Bamgbose, Save the Children

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The Rohingya crisis is also called the children's disaster. Since August 2017 more than 600,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border to Bangladesh to seek protection in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar. In Northern Rakhine State in Burma the villages of the Rohingya communities have been razed to the ground, people have experienced brutal violence, and many have witnessed family members being killed. The refugee camps have become an overcrowded and an unsafe place for children. The living conditions in the refugee camp are difficult. People live in mud and rain, without access to clean water or health care.

Traumatized by their experiences and stressed by the constant effort required to meet their basic needs, parents are prone to responding violently to their children. The shouting, screaming and beating of children amplifies their trauma and compromises their coping ability. Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting was adapted for this setting and delivered to parents with the aim of strengthening their own coping skills, reducing violence against children, and promoting family cohesion. This paper describes the many barriers to delivering the program in this context, the approach taken to program adaptation, the many successes, and the remaining challenges.