

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION: CHILDREN TEACHING OTHERS

Children building capacities and researching

Asia and the Pacific: India

During our projects in the Syrian Refugee Camp, Rohingya Refugee Camp, in the slums of Bangladesh and the villages of India and Bangladesh, we learnt that the children (boys and girls) in these areas face violence. Most of them are not aware of their rights and assume these kinds of violence are a part of their normal lives. Our first step has been to conduct extensive workshops to spread awareness. We tell them how to avoid these situations and places, to go in groups and to report it immediately to their parents (in case they are not the perpetrators) and to our workshop leaders, as well as educate them about the differences between good touch and bad touch. We use art and drama to train them on what they should do in case they are attacked. We also make them aware of their rights and encourage them to tell their parents to not get them married before they are at least 18.

The children are now leading our workshops, teaching their peers, using art and drama to explain these types of violence and what one should do as countermeasures. In this way, they are able to open up and share their own stories without having any stigma attached to it.

In the second stage, we invite their parents to these workshops where the children take the lead in engaging and educating their parents. The children in our workshops benefit from peer-to-peer communication since our Green Hope members are often the same age as some of the older children. Some of the children are so traumatized that they don't talk to their parents, but they do open up during our workshops as they interact with others their age.

