



POPULATION

969,719

of registered refugees



52%

Female



52%

Children

48%

Male

as of 30 November 2023

PARTNERS

24

of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2023

NGO 13

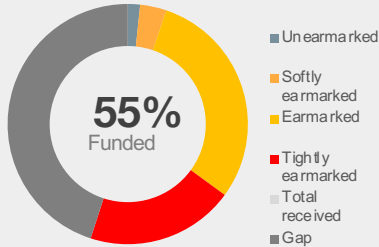
INGO 10

Government 1

FUNDING

275 M

Funding for 2023 operations



as of 30 November 2023

HISTORY

UNHCR has been a friend of Bangladesh since 1971, providing life-saving aid to some 10 million refugees forced to flee during the Liberation War.

Today, UNHCR and partners manage 16 camps in Cox's Bazar, including Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, plus the island of Bhasan Char, supporting the Government of Bangladesh to provide essential services and meet the protection needs of one million Rohingya refugees, including special services for women, children and persons with disabilities. Most arrived in 2017, fleeing persecution, large-scale violence and human rights violations.

Support is additionally extended to host communities while continuously working towards solutions to ensure that refugees can return in a safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable way once conditions in Myanmar allow.



KEY UPDATES

- 2023 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN:** As of [30 November](#), the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP) is 50% funded with USD 439 million received against the overall appeal of USD 876 million, including USD 67 million for Bhasan Char. The 2023 Plan provides protection services and essential assistance to nearly one million vulnerable Rohingya refugees and a half million Bangladeshis in host communities. [Read more.](#)
- NANSEN AWARDS:** On 28 November, Rohingya storytellers Shahida, Abdullah, Salim and Zia were announced as the 2023 Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winners for Asia and the Pacific in recognition of their pioneering work bringing their stateless community's stories from the Cox's Bazar camps to the world. Established in 1954, the UNHCR Nansen Award honours individuals, groups and organizations who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, displaced and stateless people. The award will be presented at a ceremony in Geneva on 13 December. [Read more.](#)
- DESPERATE BOAT JOURNEYS:** Several boats carrying Rohingya landed in Indonesia's Aceh province. As of 30 November, 3,468 Rohingya have embarked on risky boat journeys this year — an increase from 2022, when 3,705 Rohingya embarked. Almost half are women and children. Rohingya are fleeing violence along with limited opportunities to learn, acquire skills or work, and insufficient rations in the Cox's Bazar camps after the value of food vouchers was cut by 33% earlier this year. [For more info, visit the Myanmar data portal.](#)
- 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM:** UNHCR united with refugees and partners on Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char to kick off the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign. Running from 25 November to 10 December, this year's campaign activities include sports events, art competitions, a fair and cultural event, community discussions, and other activities to raise awareness and galvanize solidarity for a world in which all women are safe from violence.
- REGISTRATION EXERCISE:** The exercise to verify and update the registration data of refugees in Nayapara Registered Camp continued with 43% of 23,282 targeted households verified by 30 November. The exercise, which began 24 September, is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.
- SIMPLIFYING REGISTRATION APPOINTMENTS:** On 26 November, revised procedures for obtaining registration appointments went into effect for all 23 camps in Ukhiya and Camp 21 in Teknaf. The new procedures aim to simplify and streamline the process and reduce waiting times for refugees. 725 families were assisted in the first week, with strong support from the Camps-in-Charge. FAQs in English and Rohingya have been shared with refugees.
- COMPLAINT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISM (CFM):** The transition plan for UNHCR's CFM was finalized, bringing all feedback and response channels (including in-person information, complaints and feedback services points, the Helpline, the Protection inbox, complaint boxes, etc.) under a single process with a centralized information management and referrals platform. The referrals platform will help 'close the loop' on protection cases by enhancing the tracking of cases across channels and systematizing responses.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. BASIC RIGHTS, PROTECTION & EDUCATION

Refugee rights are respected, and they have access to education and protection, including protection against gender-based violence.

2. ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS IN A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Essential and sustainable services (including safe shelters, health, nutrition, WASH, energy) are ensured, and the environment is protected.

3. SKILLS & CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Work toward sustainable solutions, with voluntary repatriation at the centre, supported by skills development, livelihoods and capacity building for refugees.

4. DIVERSIFIED FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with development and private sector actors to innovate, support and localize operations.

5. CREATING A POSITIVE NARRATIVE

Lead the narrative on the Rohingya refugee response and improve public attitudes toward the Rohingya.

DONORS

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, France, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America. With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Qatar Charity, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives.

Contacts:

Amy Jo Davies, daviesa@unhcr.org,
 External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar;
Romain Desclous, desclous@unhcr.org,
 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- **VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION:** Workshops continued with 3,119 refugees (1,744 women) receiving curriculum-based vocational training in seven trades. By the end of November, 2,024 training graduates (1,154 female) had been tested on their skills by independent assessors with a 79% pass rate. Meanwhile, 400 refugee women were engaged in sanitary napkin and underwear production in four centres under Fast Retailing/UNIQLO. 1.3 million sanitary napkins and 400,000 pairs of female underwear produced through the project will be distributed to Rohingya women and girls in December.
- **BHASAN CHAR LIVELIHOOD PRODUCTS:** UNHCR partner NGO Forum received RRRC approval to export refugee-made goods from livelihoods/skills projects on Bhasan Char.
- **SHELTER REPAIRS:** 3,774 households received materials to repair and maintain their shelters, taking the total number of households verified and assisted for shelter support in 2023 to 40,953 — or 44% of 93,500 total shelters in 16 UNHCR-managed camps. In comparison, only 30% needed repairs in 2022. Reinforcement of vulnerable shelters with treated bamboo and metal footing will continue until the year's end as more of the temporary shelters reach the end of their lifespans.
- **RATIONALIZATION:** To rationalize and boost efficiency, UNHCR and FAO agreed to a division of plantation and slope protection activities in the camps: FAO will take over at the community-level, while household-level activities will remain with UNHCR. Meanwhile, under livelihoods, UNHCR will focus on commercial agriculture and phase out homestead gardening in camps.
- **HEALTH & SAFETY FOR SANITATION VOLUNTEERS:** A campaign kicked off to ensure the health and safety of refugee sanitation volunteers, reaching 605 volunteers (100% of target) with a first dose of the Hepatitis B/C vaccine. Three more doses will be delivered in 2024.
- **BUILDING MENTAL HEALTHCARE CAPACITY:** 27 partner psychologists received a 5-day training on interpersonal therapy techniques to enhance their skills to address mental health issues arising from refugees' experiences of loss and displacement. Over the next few months, the psychologists will continue to receive technical mentoring from the previous trainees and tele-supervision from professors at Columbia University in New York.
- **HEALTH CARD DISTRIBUTION:** On Bhasan Char, over 29,000 refugees received their individual health booklets (95% of target). Refugees in Cox's Bazar had already received their health cards in August and September, helping to make the response more cost efficient by preventing duplicate medical consultations.
- **MISSION REPORT:** UNHCR hosted or assisted 10 visits from donors and partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including a delegation from ECHO's regional office, the Ambassador of the Republic Korea, and private sector partner Schneider Electric.
- **FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 30 November, UNHCR Bangladesh operations were 55% funded against the 2023 operating plan of USD 275 million. [See funding update.](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- **"The experience of refugee management across the world has taught us that bridges across refugee and host communities are essential for all to thrive."** In a powerful op-ed, newly appointed UNHCR Representative Sumbul Rizvi reflects on the possibilities and challenges of the protracted Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. [Read the op-ed.](#)
- **"It's essential for refugees to come together on climate issues. We all have to work collectively to mitigate the impact of climate change."** Rohingya refugee youth Mohammed Anower speaks up on his environmental activism in the Cox's Bazar camps. [Read Anower's story.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh social media accounts published 17 [Facebook](#) posts, 41 [tweets](#) and 13 [Instagram](#) posts in November.



In a camp of one million people, ever wonder 'where does the poop go'? Find out in this video re-post for World Toilet Day (19 November). [Watch the video.](#)