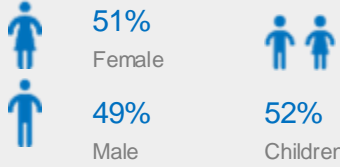




## POPULATION

**1,004,986** # of registered refugees

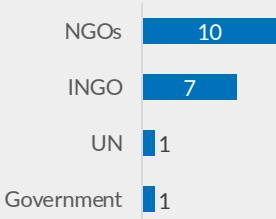
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf  
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 31 October 2024

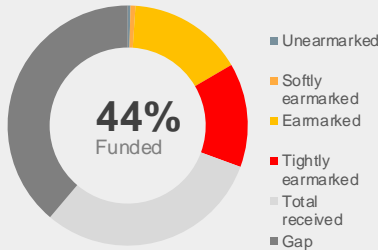
## PARTNERS

**19** # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



## FUNDING

**275 M** Funding for 2024 operations



as of 31 October 2024

## HISTORY

UNHCR has been present in Bangladesh since 1992, but the relationship has deeper roots. In 1971, during Bangladesh's Liberation War, UNHCR coordinated a massive relief effort to support 10 million refugees forced to flee for protection, and helped facilitate their return to the newly independent nation in the following months.

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.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

October 2024



Rohingya volunteers at the jute production centre in Camp 5. © Shahirah Majumdar/UNHCR

## KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 31 October, the 2024 JRP was **56 per cent funded**, with USD 474.1 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million, according to the [FTS tracker](#). The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who depend on humanitarian assistance, and for more than 400,000 host community members. As the conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, international solidarity with Bangladesh and support for refugee protection is urgently needed. In 2023, the JRP was **66 per cent funded** with USD 578 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- REGISTRATION UPDATE:** Since implementation of the new Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC)-approved registration guidelines in July, UNHCR has registered some 21,000 new births over the past three months, for a total of 42,243 new births since the start of 2024. Recent birth registration includes Rohingya infants under six months which had not been permitted under previous guidelines. In October, with pending birth registration almost complete, UNHCR focused on other types of registration applications – recording 2,380 births, 43 deaths, and 1,043 changes in family composition (due to marriage, divorce, family reunification, protection reasons, and relocations). Documents issued included 17,784 family attestations and 5,040 ID cards.
- HEADCOUNT OF NEW ARRIVALS:** A 'headcount' exercise to enable the distribution of minimum life-saving assistance to new arrivals from Myanmar was conducted in October. Some 64,000 new arrivals received tokens for access to food, health, nutrition, and basic household items. UNHCR continues advocacy for full biometric registration of new arrivals, and calls for non-refoulement and regulated access to safety for civilians forced to flee, in line with international frameworks. Seeking asylum is a human right, and every person has the right to apply for asylum if they are fleeing conflict or persecution.
- PEACE & SECURITY CAMPAIGN:** The Peace and Security Campaign launched officially on 15 October, with participation of camps-in-charge (CiCs), humanitarian actors, Protection Sector coordinators and other stakeholders. The campaign will promote messages of non-violence in the community (including 'no to arms in the camps' and 'no to violence against women, girls and children') to prevent and manage conflict, increase protection space, and rebuild trust with law enforcement agencies. A baseline survey on the community's perceptions of peace and security is being rolled out. Meanwhile, posters with the message 'No to violence in the camps' in Rohingya and English will be placed strategically in the camps.
- ONWARDS MOVEMENTS:** As monsoon season ended and sea conditions improved, maritime movements for Rohingya people fleeing violence and insecurity in Myanmar and Bangladesh had a tragic start. Three boats carrying Rohingya men, women and children arrived in Indonesia's Aceh province in October, with six people reported to have perished on [the latest boat](#), abandoned by human traffickers on 31 October. [Read UNHCR's quarterly report on onward movements.](#) Since the start of 2024 to 31 October, 7,017 Rohingya individuals have attempted dangerous boat journeys departing from Myanmar or Bangladesh in search of protection, a 257 per cent rise compared to the same period in 2023. Of 7,017 individuals, 227 people have been reported deceased or missing. [Visit the data portal.](#)

## 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, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); multi-stakeholder fund Education Cannot Wait (ECW); and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including adidas AG, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Zakat House of Kuwait and Tanmeia Foundation.

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- FEMININE HYGIENE KIT (FHK) PRODUCTION:** In the light of better-than-expected production efficiencies, UNHCR and partner Fast Retailing (FR) revised the planned number of volunteers for FHK production from 1,000 to 750 workers. The introduction of the piece rate payment has significantly increased productivity, with volunteers now delivering 12.5 per cent more sanitary pads and 31 per cent more underwear monthly compared to July. Meanwhile, IOM confirmed that they will procure the UNHCR-produced kits for the 17 camps it manages in 2025. With UNICEF previously having confirmed interest, all Rohingya women and girls in all camps will from next year receive the reusable kits, enhancing business efficiency for the UNHCR/FR project and ensuring standardization of WASH items and cost-saving at scale.
- DENGUE OUTBREAK:** Since the start of 2024 to 31 October, 12,511 dengue cases have been recorded in Cox's Bazar camps. After a three-month surge, cases fell by 10 per cent in October (3,340) compared to the previous month. New hotspots were reported in Camps 13 and 15, while cases in UNHCR-managed camps continued to decline (21 per cent of total cases, or 698 cases) were in . Weekly block camp cleaning campaigns and distribution of key prevention messages have helped reduce mosquito breeding sites as well as promoted personal protection measures among the refugees. The Health Sector is evaluating the use of larvicides.
- BHASAN CHAR NUTRITION SURVEY:** Findings from the annual Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) conducted in September on Bhasan Char show that global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6-59 months fell by 6.3 per cent (coming in at 8.5 per cent in 2024). Chronic malnutrition, also known as stunting, fell by 2.4 per cent (coming in at 34.7 per cent in 2024) but remains critical. Anemia among children-under-five worsened and surpassed critical levels (40.3 per cent in 2024 vs 37.6 per cent in 2023), while anemia among women of reproductive age improved (24.1 per cent in 2024 vs 30.7 per cent in 2023). The Cox's Bazar Nutrition Survey will be conducted in November-December.
- BAMBOO SUPPLIES:** Deliveries of *muli* bamboo significantly improved in October, allowing UNHCR and partners to scale up shelter assistance by nearly 50 per cent compared to September. To date, suppliers have delivered 217,000 *borak* pieces (+1.5 per cent from previous month, 44 per cent of the annual target) and 2.5 million *muli* pieces (+26.5 per cent from previous month, 83 per cent of the annual target). 4,043 households received shelter repair materials in October, while 5,795 eligible households are pending assistance due to the shortage of *muli*. To address the continuing *borak* shortfall, UNHCR is transitioning to a composite shelter design that requires few *borak* pieces. (*Borak* and *muli* are two kinds of bamboo, with the thicker *borak* pieces used mainly as weight-bearing pillars).
- WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES:** Bangladesh experienced [unprecedented rainfall](#) this monsoon season, which ended in October, with 46 per cent more rainfall than average in August and 33 per cent more in September – resulting in high rates of weather-related shelter damage in the Cox's Bazar camps. By 31 October, windstorm incidents were up by 30 per cent (601 in 2024 vs 461 in 2023), floods by 980 per cent (65 in 2024 vs 6 in 2023), and landslides by 129 per cent (78 in 2024 vs 34 in 2023). In October, with the monsoons tapering off, windstorms, flooding and landslide-related incidents fell to 15 compared to 88 incidents in September. However, fire-related incidents increased by 23 per cent (21 vs 17 incidents in September). In 2024, over 22,000 households have been affected in 1,087 total incidents.
- MISSION REPORT:** UNHCR welcomed 15 visits from donors/partners to Cox's Bazar camps in October, including the Ambassadors of Japan, Norway, and the European Union, and a US congressional delegation.
- FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 31 October, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 44 per cent funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. New contributions were received from Jersey, Kuwait and the USA.

## IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- On World Food Day (16 October), Rohingya refugees shared stories and memories of their favourite foods. [Watch the videos.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 21 [Facebook](#) posts, 22 [tweets](#) and 20 [Instagram](#) posts in October. Posts included [highlights](#) on UNHCR staff, [updates](#) on Cyclone Dana, a [spotlight](#) on the power of handwashing for Global Handwashing Day (15 October), and more, a [photo story](#) on E-waste Day (14 October) where refugees exchanged unusable electronic waste items for tree saplings, and more.



Join Shirin for a 'Ride-Along' showcasing UNHCR's Women Empowerment and Leadership programme to prevent gender-based violence. [Watch video.](#)