10,865

Beneficiaries reached from livelihood & economic interventions

3,913

Adults enrolled to the accelerated adult literacy course

224

Technical skills training students who completed training and graduated

1,331

Women engaged in different production centres to produce female hygiene materials

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

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Refugee learners in vocational training ©UNHCR

Bangladesh has no framework for national asylum or direct laws regulating refugee affairs. This creates ambiguity regarding refugees' access to certain rights and services, notably the right to work and rights at work. Given that support must be sustained to ensure that Rohingya refugees are able to capacitate, educate and skill themselves in preparation for a future in Myanmar or in third countries, and in the absence of formal employment opportunities. Under this narrative, livelihoods for refugees in Bangladesh have always been evolving and subject to approvals from the relevant authorities. UNHCR actively advocates for policy changes or flexibility to support refugees' self-reliance. Within the restrictive policy environment, the livelihood unit has made progress below:

Key achievements

- UNHCR and partners have reached **10,865** beneficiaries with livelihoods interventions in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char.
- **3,913** adults were enrolled in the Accelerated Adult Literacy course.
- **224** graduates were engaged in English Language and Life Skills training.
- **1,014** individuals were engaged in wage and self-employment programmes in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char.
- **1,983** technical skills training students successfully completed their training, graduated and received certificates out of **2,128**. This represents **93%** success rate of the skills training programme.
- **190** participants were engaged in aquaculture on Bhasan Char.
- **83** households were engaged in livestock rearing on Bhasan Char.
- **120** households were engaged in chicken farming for meat production
- **3,118** individuals were engaged in vegetable and crop production on Bhasan Char. This represents **100%** of the anticipated 2025 target.
- 8 production centres were maintained, seven in Cox's Bazar and one on Bhasan Char, engaging over **1,331** women. Five of these centres continued to receive technical and financial support from fast retailing, which produces reusable sanitary napkins and female underwear. The centres supplied the FHKs to UNICEF and IOM for general distribution. The remaining three centres continued producing various types of crafts using natural fibres and fabrics.
- Two green innovation hubs cum one-stop service centres established in camps to deliver cost-effective and reliable services to the refugee community at the rate of creating entrepreneurship.

Challenges

- **Restricted mobility and access to markets outside of camps:** Without the requisite permissions, Rohingyas cannot freely move outside of camps. They are unable to access external markets. If they can, they will be able to interact with and contribute to the local economies of their communities.
- **Legal provisions to Work:** Rohingyas can only engage as incentive workers with humanitarian organisations in camps, and these opportunities are extremely limited. They are not legally allowed to work outside of the camps. This limits their productivity as they pursue durable solutions.
- **Restrictions on participating in markets and supply chains:** Rohingyas are not legally allowed to operate enterprises within camps. This makes them dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive. If they are permitted to participate in income-generating activities, they can trade in local markets, make goods accessible within and outside of camps, be active participants in supply chains, and be more financially independent.
- **Low Numeracy and Literacy Skills amongst refugees:** Due to a hiatus in getting access to primary and secondary education during the displacement period, many Rohingya youth have low literacy and numeracy skills. Reaching more people with Accelerated Adult Learning will have far-reaching effects on their ability to thrive in their daily lives.
- **Vocational Skills Development options:** The 2022 Skills Development Framework is limited to specific occupations and levels of competence. Rohingyas cannot acquire a certification recognised by Bangladeshi institutions. This limits the diversity of skills that the Rohingya can access. Higher, better-quality internationally recognised skills can help ensure that those seeking complementary pathways are more successful.
- **Volunteer Incentive Services are limited and not sustainable:** There is only a limited number of volunteer opportunities that can be made available by humanitarian actors, fully relying on the humanitarian funds within the camps, and these can be saturated soon if alternative options for self-employment are not created.
- **Private Sector participation is refugee hosting areas remains nascent:** The private sector is a key driver of job creation and economic growth in local economies. If the private sector has the flexibility to engage with camp markets, its participation will have a positive ripple effect on an economy of more than one million refugees and on host communities.
- **Connectivity is restricted:** If refugees have access to better connectivity, for example, through legally acquired SIM cards with Mobile Financial Service, that could help them to be financially included and improve Know Your Customer traceability. This could also help skilled Rohingya youth access digital jobs. Connectivity also implies improving access to services such as electricity and greater mobility.

Way Forward

- Continue the Accelerated Adult Literacy training to minimize the literacy and numeracy gap for joining the Skills Training by the Rohingya refugees.
- Deliver skills training at Level 1 on the selected trades and also pilot the upskilled curricula in the camps.
- Facilitate the skilled graduates with self-employment or job placement opportunities.
- Deliver financial literacy Training to the entrepreneurs inside camps.
- Continuation of the English Language that leads to the IELTS test.
- Introduction of digital literacy training linked to digital jobs for the refugees in the camps of Cox's Bazar.
- Establish the green innovation hub network to provide a one-stop service point for the refugees to ensure easily accessible, cost-efficient, and reliable services.
- Continue the female hygiene material production and operate the craft production centres inside the camps.
- Deliver agricultural livelihood support to households on Bhasan Char to make them resilient and self-reliant.

UNHCR | Bangladesh
The UN Refugee Agency

Livelihood & Skills Development

Factsheet | 31 Dec 2025

Beneficiaries reached from livelihoods & economic interventions

10,865

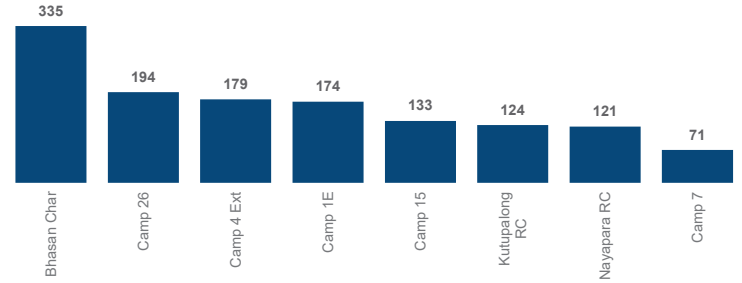
UNHCR and partners, working closely with government counterparts, conducting livelihood activities, in 16 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district and 1 settlement on the island of Bhasan Char, Noakhali district in addition to host community areas in Bangladesh.

393
# of individuals engaged in vegetable farming, aquaculture, broiler chicken and livestock rearing on Bhasan Char

3,913
# of adults enrolled to the Accelerated Adult Literacy course

224
# of technical skills training graduates engaged with English language and life skills training

Individuals engaged with wage/self-employment programme



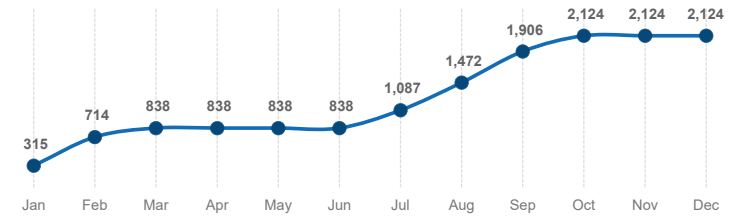
Key achievements

Progress against **target**

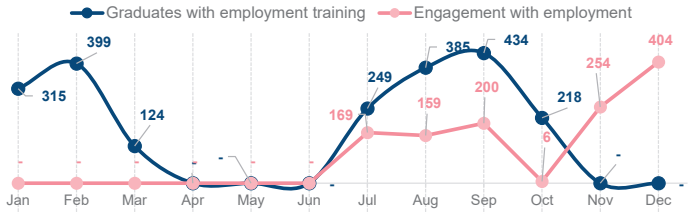
	REACHED	TARGET
# of individuals earning incentives / wages from partner and from community contracting projects (100%)	1,331	1,280
# of technical skills training students who graduated (successful completion and receipt of certification) (99%)	2,110	2,128
# of participants involved in aquaculture on Bhasan Char (100%)	190	190
# of participants involved in livestock rearing on Bhasan Char (100%)	83	48
# of participants involved with vegetable cultivation on Bhasan Char (100%)	3,118	3,000

Monthly trend

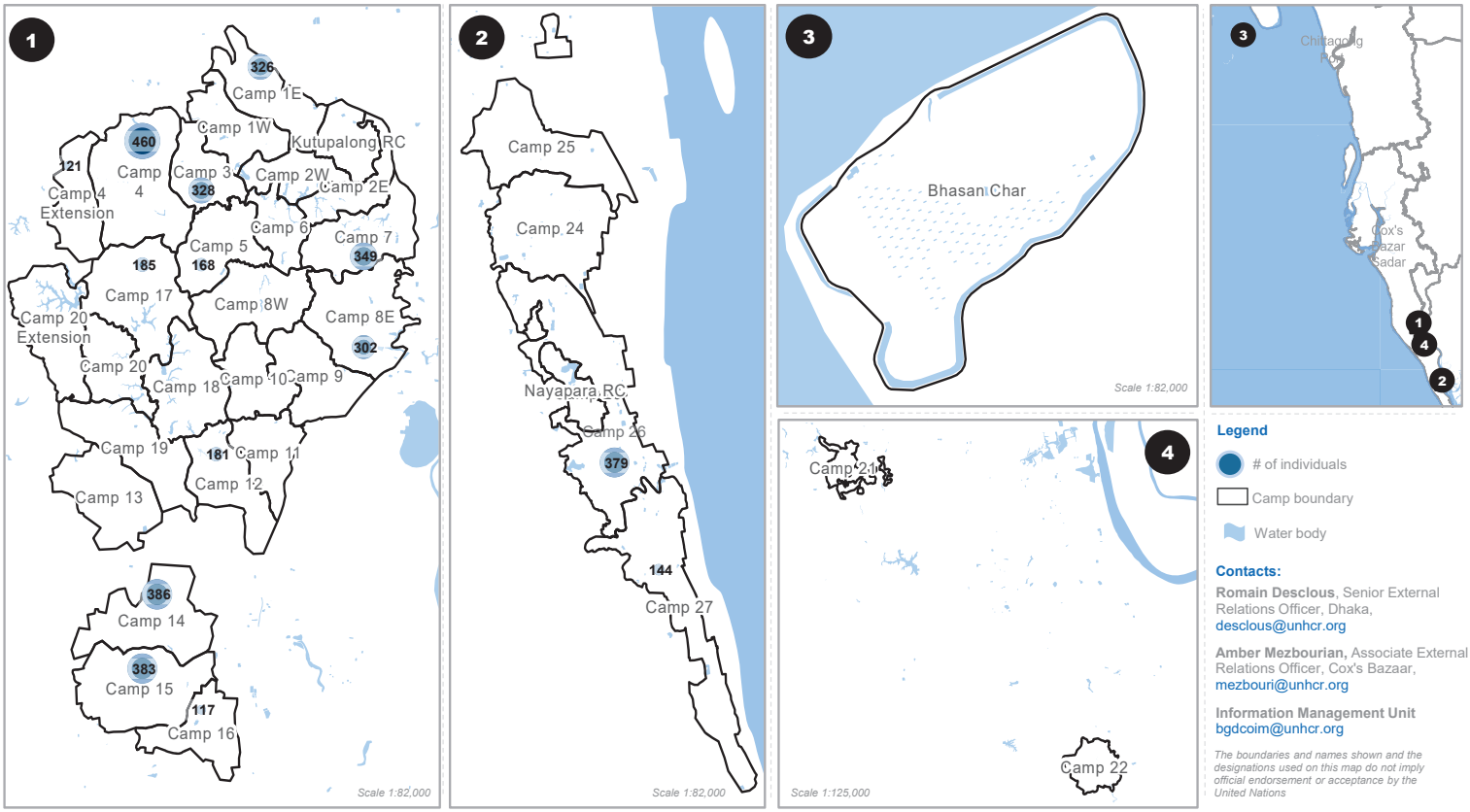
Students graduated with completion of training and certification



Individuals received training and engaged with employment



Geographic overview (Individuals enrolled to Accelerated Adult Literacy course)



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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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