UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Bangladesh

POPULATION

1,200,171 # of registered refugees

97% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3% on the island of Bhasan Char

51.5% Female

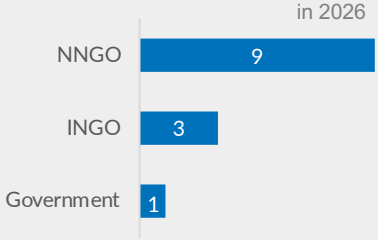
48.5% Male

52% Children

as of 30 June 2026

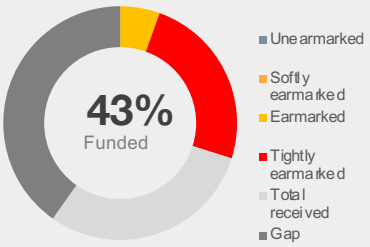
PARTNERS

13 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2026



FUNDING

200.6 M Funding for 2026 operations



as of 30 June 2026

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
June 2026

Preparing for World Refugee Day in the Cox's Bazar camps.© UNHCR/Shari Nijman

KEY UPDATES

- WORLD REFUGEE DAY: UNHCR and partners marked World Refugee Day on 20 June with sports, games, cultural activities, and student engagement programmes. In Cox's Bazar, an inter-agency Solidarity Football Tournament brought together refugees, humanitarian workers, and government officials. In Dhaka, a student-led art competition on the theme 'Forced to Flee' ended with a certificate ceremony at Daffodil International University, and a screening of the first film in the Rohingya-language *Lost Land* at the Liberation War Museum.

- ONWARDS MOVEMENTS: As of end-May, an estimated 10,700 individuals from Myanmar and the Bangladesh camps undertook onward movements by land or sea in 2026, bringing the total since January 2022 to 380,700, with 2,600 reported dead or missing. In late June, two boats carrying an estimated 500 people, reportedly departed Northern Rakhine and encountered dangerous monsoon weather. Reports that the boats capsized in the Andaman Sea with no survivors are being investigated. Insecurity in Rakhine State, reduced assistance in Cox's Bazar camps and lack of solutions continue to drive refugees to search for safety and opportunities elsewhere in the region. UNHCR and partners continue to raise awareness of the dangers of undertaking such perilous journeys. *Read the Route-based Snapshot*. *Read the UNHCR-IOM Joint Statement.*

- NEW ARRIVALS: Rohingya and other residents fleeing conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State continued to seek safety in Bangladesh, despite a closed-border policy that has limited access to asylum. Between 1 January and 30 June 2026, border protection monitoring reported 2,219 individuals denied access to Bangladesh, bringing the total to 14,706 since 2024. However, many incidents are unreported. In June, 1,611 newly arrived individuals were biometrically identified through a joint exercise with the Government of Bangladesh. Since the exercise began in 2025, a total of 153,640 individuals (40,326 families) have received family cards granting access to basic assistance – representing 12.8% of the current population. Unlike regular refugee registration, suspended by the Government since May 2022, individual refugee identity documents are not issued through this process. UNHCR continues to advocate with government counterparts for full registration and access to shelter for new arrivals.

- STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE: UNHCR reached key milestones in the transition of WASH, health and nutrition services, including the handover of WASH Area Focal responsibilities to UNICEF in five Ukhiya camps and the Transit Centre, and of Community Health Focal responsibilities to WHO in six Ukhiya camps and Teknaf's Nayapara Registered Camp. UNHCR will retain its role as Area Focal Agency in Teknaf camps and continue distributing hygiene items in Ukhiya camps through 31 December. Preparations continued for the handover of nutrition centres on Bhasan Char to UNICEF and WFP, now scheduled for 1 August.

- REFGUEE-LED ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Seven refugee-led gas stove repair and pressure cooker maintenance shops were established and became operational from 1 July, creating livelihoods opportunities for graduates of the UNHCR-supported 'small engine mechanics' curriculum-based skills training. The shops help ensure continued access to essential stove maintenance services and mark a transition towards community-led ownership of these services, from a vendor-led to a refugee-led approach.

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, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and the USA.

With additional support from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Bangladesh Humanitarian Fund, and private donors including Adidas Foundation, Adyen NV, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Fast Retailing/UNIQLO, FC Barcelona Foundation, Human Concern USA, Humaniti Foundation (USA), and One Ummah.

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- TRANSIT CENTRE PHASE-OUT & REFUGEE RELOCATIONS: Under the Community-Based Safe Shelter initiative, through which Transit Centre residents will be relocated to designated sites in Camps 4 and 4E, progress continued on integrated site development works, including shelter, WASH and supporting infrastructure. Separately, preparations advanced for the phased relocation of refugees living in high-risk areas, with completion of 300 double-storied and 80 temporary safer shelters in Block E of Camp 4-Extension. Relocations will begin in July. As per 2025 ISNA data, an estimated 14,394 camp households exposed to flood risks and 34,391 households in landslide-prone areas are in need of relocation to safer areas.

- MONSOON PREPAREDNESS: With the official start of Bangladesh's monsoon season in June, UNHCR and partners increased preparedness and response activities, including slope stabilization, shelter reinforcement, community awareness activities, volunteer training, and disaster management coordination. Some 4,000 households were impacted by severe weather incidents in June, including storms, floods and landslides. Funding shortfalls in 2026 have resulted in a 56% gap in disaster risk reduction funding, limiting lifesaving preparedness activities including high-risk landslide response and site development work. *Read the latest Flash Update.*

- LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) FOR COOKING: LPG access was maintained across all UNHCR-supported camps in June, reaching 92% of households, with post-distribution monitoring indicating high refugee satisfaction. Access extended to Bhasan Char, where distributions resumed in April after a three-month funding gap. However, refill costs have risen by 29% since January due to inflationary pressures and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. With no scalable alternative to LPG currently available, sustained funding remains critical. LPG prices remain volatile, and a funding shortfall is projected by mid to end October.

- REDUCING CLIMATE RISKS: UNHCR's integrated watershed management strategy in Cox's Bazar builds on the completed SuLMER project, which addressed environmental degradation and climate-related hazards through ecosystem restoration, improved water flow, waste reduction, nature-based solutions and integrated site planning. In 2026, activities have been integrated into regular canal clearance and monitoring, with a focus on community-led initiatives. In June, community members cleared more than 4,900 feet of canals, improving drainage, and reducing flood risks and stagnant water. *Read the 2025 SuLMER annual report.*

- TEKNAF WATER PROJECT: With the installation of the solar-powered raw water pump at the Shalbagan Water Treatment Plant, the solarized water supply system is now fully operational, covering five camps in Teknaf. The project addresses chronic dry season water shortages while also saving up to USD 120,000 per year on fuel costs for generators.

- FUNDING UPDATE: As of 30 June, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 43% funded with USD 85.5 million received against an operating plan of USD 200.6 million. New contributions were received from Australia, Ireland, the EU, and the UK.

- 2026 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN: As of 30 April, the 2026 Joint Response Plan, which appeals for USD 710.5 million to reach up to 1.56 million people, including refugees and Bangladeshi host communities, was 63% funded.

"IN CASE YOU MISSED IT…"

- ***"Restoring hope means creating the conditions for people to see a future again."*** *A World Refugee Day op-ed by UNHCR Deputy Representative Juliette Murekeyisoni, a former refugee herself, argued for increased livelihoods and learning opportunities for refugees. Read the story.*

- *According to the **UNHCR 2025 Global Trends** report, published in June, the Rohingya account for 41% of the world's stateless population. Read the 2025 report.*

- *In June, UNHCR received seven missions from donors and partners, bringing the total number of missions in 2026 to 28.*

- *UNHCR Bangladesh published 39 Facebook posts, 38 tweets and 34 Instagram posts in June, including posts on World Refugee Day and celebrating the World Cup in camps.*

UNHCRBangladesh @UNHCR_BGD unhcr_bgd

Rohingya student & singer Rohel Khan shares a powerful messages about 'dreams and dignity' for World Refugee Day. Watch the video.