

BANGLADESH

24 November 2017

Rohingya refugees continue to flee violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar, reaching Bangladesh by land, boat, and makeshift rafts made of bamboo and jerry cans.

Newly arrived refugees are settling in and around existing camps and among host communities, **stretching already limited resources**.

UNHCR is supporting the Government of Bangladesh to receive, **assist and protect newly arrived refugees** and support host communities.

POPULATION FIGURES

624,000* Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

307,500 Estimated refugee population before the influx

931,500 Estimated total refugee population now

STAFFING & PARTNERS

228 Staff now present in the operation compared to **49** prior to the crisis.

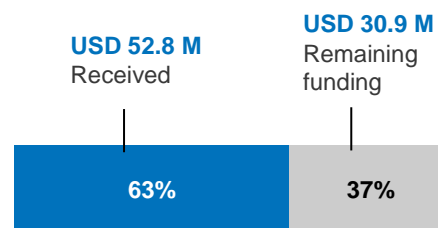
21 partners compared to **7** prior to the crisis.

* As reported by the Cox's Bazar Inter Sector Coordination Group

FUNDING (AS OF 28 NOVEMBER 2017)

USD 83.7 M

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response for 2017



A young Rohingya refugee stands outside her shelter at a UNHCR transit camp near Kutupalong, south-east Bangladesh.

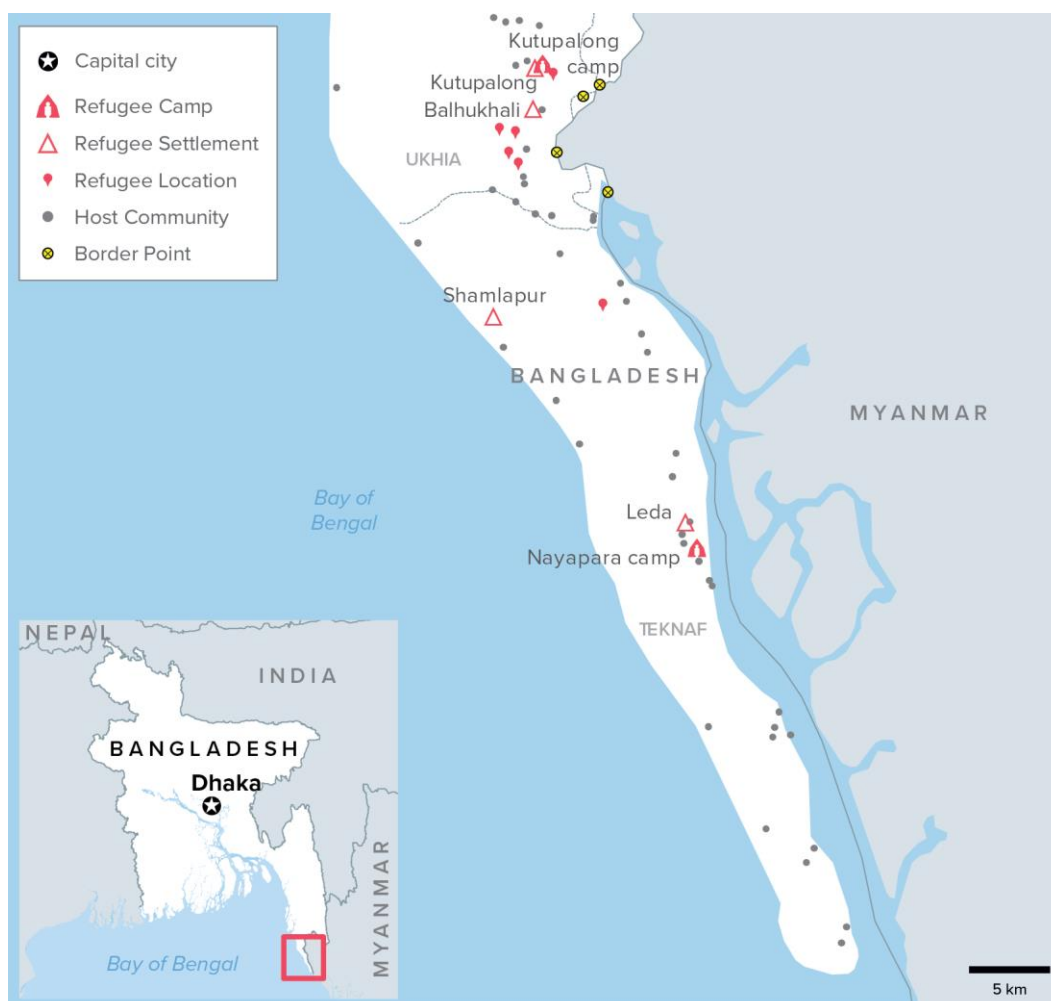
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Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, **624,000 refugees have fled targeted violence and serious human rights violations** in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh, bringing the total number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh close to one million.

These new refugees are settling in the border areas in the south-east of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living. Weather conditions, the hilly terrain, and the lack of roads limit access to the refugees, especially those living in more remote areas of the spontaneous settlements.

With a steady flow of new arrivals into Bangladesh in search of safety, UNHCR is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and to support host populations affected by this new influx. UNHCR continues to work around the clock to develop sites in the extension area of Kutupalong and to ensure that basic infrastructure is in place as refugees settle.



Update on achievements



PROTECTION

On 19 November, **the Family Counting teams completed coverage** of all the areas **initially planned**: Kutupalong extension, including Balukhali and Thangkhali, as well as Jamtoli, Hakimpara, Chakmarkul, Unchiprang, Moyanarghona, Shamlapur, Leda, and Nayapara. The teams will continue to count newly arriving families in these areas. The UNHCR Protection Screening team is interviewing the families flagged as having an urgent vulnerability during the family counting exercise. 1,526 refugees have been interviewed so far, of whom 72% require immediate assistance, either referred to medical services or protection actors.

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR is expanding its community outreach into the new settlements and makeshift sites by identifying and setting up networks of trained community outreach members (COMs)**, applying models successfully used in other refugee emergencies – adapted to the local context. The COMs role is to strengthen two-way communication, follow-up on persons with specific needs, carry out community-led solutions, and engage in prevention. A total of 87 COMs have been identified so far in Kutupalong extension, among whom 32% were women. UNHCR promotes inclusive refugee representation so all refugees' needs are taken into consideration. During this reporting week, a team composed of various UNHCR experts (Protection, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Water and Sanitation, Shelter, etc.) jointly assessed the UNHCR transit centre. They held focus group discussions with men, women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. Refugees highlighted access to food as a priority concern. Other concerns include access to safe latrines (gender-segregated, with locks and lights), including for people with disabilities, were also raised. These multifunctional assessment teams and focus groups are designed to inform UNHCR's planning and assistance delivery, and ensure meaningful and effective participation of refugees in decision-making that directly affects their protection and wellbeing.
- UNHCR is working with the Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association (BNWLA), Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI), and Handicap International (HI) to **provide legal assistance to refugees**. At least two additional counselling centres will be established in Kutupalong to assist refugees with legal matters. This includes supporting survivors of violence, including sexual and gender based violence.
- **UNHCR is expanding its child protection partner network** to include Caritas and Terre des Hommes. Currently, UNHCR is working with Save the Children in Kutupalong camp and extension as well as in Nayapara camp, and Relief International in Kutupalong extension. Save the Children and Relief International have child-friendly

spaces and mobile child-friendly activities. This week alone, 3,268 children attended the child-friendly spaces while mobile child-friendly teams reached 154 children. Lack of space in child-friendly spaces, both indoor and outdoor, continues to be a challenge.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees continue to flee Myanmar and many have suffered violence, rape, and deep psychological harm. Some have witnessed the deaths of family members and friends. Life-saving assistance, including psychosocial first aid continues to be essential.



Roshida, 60, is helped by a UNHCR staff member to walk from a UNHCR transit camp to new shelters at the Kutupalong settlement in south-east Bangladesh. © UNHCR / Andrew McConnell



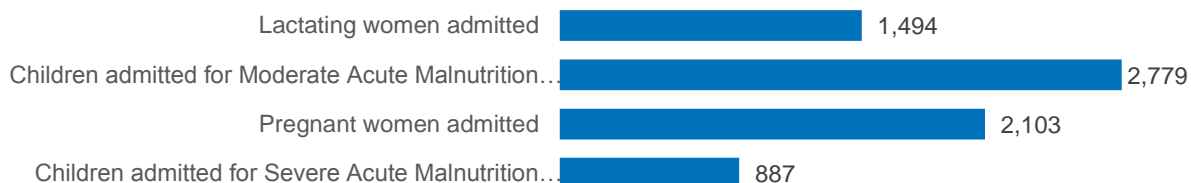
Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR’s five health partners offer primary health care and critical referral services to Rohingya refugees through 13 health units** in Kutapalong registered camp, extension, and makeshift, and Nayapara registered camp, as well as in UNHCR-supported referral hospitals in Cox’s Bazar, Ukiha, and Teknaf.
- **UNHCR continues to support Bangladesh’s medical healthcare facilities in refugee-hosting areas** with logistical support, equipment (ambulances, hospital tents, medicines, and medical supplies), resources (for construction of health facilities), and training.
- During the ongoing “nutrition action week” carried out by Bangladeshi authorities and supported by UNHCR, 93,121 children were screened for malnutrition; approximately **one in ten children (8,678) were referred to an outpatient programme (OTP) for further check-ups.**

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Health information system must be strengthened. UNHCR’s epidemiologist is working to improve the Health Information System through meetings/engagements, field visits, and capacity-building initiatives.

Number of persons admitted for malnutrition treatment



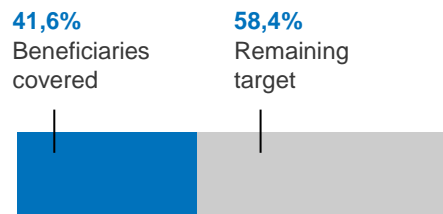


WATER AND SANITATION

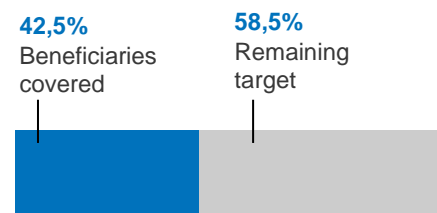
Achievements and Impact

- **Based on UNHCR's site planning, WASH actors are collaborating to install water and sanitation in new areas where refugees will settle.** In Zone UU, for example, the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are building 440 latrines, 230 bathing cubicles, and 46 tube wells. Construction also started in Zone RR, the latest zone being developed by UNHCR.
- UNHCR conducted a rapid household survey on water and sanitation covering most of Kutupalong and the surrounding area of Nayapara. The survey collected core WASH indicators through the Kobo toolbox, a free open-source tool for mobile data collection, and geographic information system (GIS) techniques. The results will help to guide and improve the response in terms of water and sanitation.
- **UNHCR is coordinating closely with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), the national lead agency for the provision of drinking water, on a comprehensive water mapping exercise covering Teknaf and Ukiya areas.** The mapping will take into consideration aquifer sustainability, ground water, and surface water resource management. UNHCR offered its technical support to DPHE.

Refugees with access to water



Refugees with access to latrines



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scarce water resources in Nayapara and risks of water contamination in all refugee settlements are a concern. Improving the safe access to wash facilities, for instance by installing lights and locks, is also a priority, especially for women and girls.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is moving into the **second phase of its shelter strategy**. After distributing almost 80,000 tarpaulins to new arrivals from the onset of the emergency the agency is now providing full shelter kits to new arrivals being relocated from the transit centre to Kutupalong extension. The shelter kit includes bamboo poles, ropes, tools and tarpaulins. Refugees who already built their shelters are receiving upgrade kits, to reinforce and improve structures. Some 4,670 families received a shelter or upgrade kit.

- UNHCR started using barcoded tokens for shelter kits for new arrivals in Zone OO.** So far, a total of 607 shelter kits have been distributed. This assistance provided by UNHCR and Save the Children is linked to the existing Family Counting data. More than 30 families have been identified as the most vulnerable and therefore assisted with the construction of their shelters. Most of them are single female heads of households, elderly at risk and persons with disabilities.
- UNHCR is expanding its warehousing capacities.** UNHCR is building nine rub halls (five with a capacity of 24x10m and four with a capacity of 32x10m) close to Cox's Bazar to increase its warehousing capacities closer to refugee settlements.

Refugees who received core relief items



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More than 85% of families reside in a shelter without a lock – one of the main interventions suggested by families to increase their sense of safety and security.



Rohingya children sit beneath a solar lantern, part of the UNHCR Non-Food Items emergency relief pack given to new arrivals at Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh. (c) UNHCR / Andrew McConnell



Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR is leading the process to create a master plan for Kutupalong refugee settlement** as part of the Site Planning taskforce composed of the RRRC, IOM, and UNHCR. In parallel, **UNHCR finalized the site plan for Kutupalong Extension Zone RR and is now working on Zone QQ**. OBAT helpers, an NGO active in Bangladesh, is demarking community services in Zone RR while Caritas continues to demark areas in Zone UU.
- **UNHCR is supporting the site management structure put in place by Bangladeshi authorities. 21 Bangladeshi officials were deployed and designated as Camp-in-Charge (CiC) persons in Cox's Bazar for six weeks to six months**. UNHCR is supporting the CiCs through training and provision of equipment (offices, vehicles).
- **From 12 to 23 November, UNHCR collected representative data from refugee families in 10 zones in Kutupalong extension**. The aim of the resulting site profiles, undertaken with the support of REACH, is to establish a baseline of the humanitarian situation to allow for comparison of the situation between zones and over time. Food aid was mentioned by 75% of families as their first priority need. The main safety and security concerns were the lack of freedom of movement, theft, and fear of children getting lost or kidnapped.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to energy, notably cooking fuel, is a challenge. UNHCR is procuring rice compressed husks for some 50,000 families as an immediate mitigation measure. In the meantime, UNHCR is looking at longer-term possibilities to preserve the environment and limit protection risks associated with lack of access to energy.

Working in partnership

- **UNHCR continues to support the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees**. UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), in charge of leading the emergency refugee response in coordination with the district authorities. In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR cooperates with the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- **UNHCR is working with international and national NGOs in Bangladesh and has scaled up its partnership network to 21 partners, including nine national NGOs**. UNHCR is the lead role in the protection response for all refugees, coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through the various sector working groups of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

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CONTACTS

Showvik Das Tamal, Associate External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh,
TAMAL@unhcr.org, Tel: +880 17 7874 5379

Vivian Tan, Senior Regional Public Information Officer, UNHCR Bangkok (Regional Office), TANV@unhcr.org, Tel: +66 2 342 3503

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