

# BANGLADESH

## Situation Overview

- Light showers and windstorms were recorded during the reporting period, resulting in **19** incidents of landslide, flood, and fire across all settlements. A total of **81 shelters** were damaged, affecting **715 individuals** while **4 people** were reportedly injured.<sup>1</sup>
- UNHCR **relocated 31 families (126 individuals) living in areas at high risk of landslides to safe areas.** Relocations also took place due to **construction activities and as a risk mitigation effort to decongest overcrowded settlements.**
- As the monsoon season nears its end, UNHCR and partners are bolstering **preparedness for the upcoming cyclone season**, which is generally expected in October.

## UNHCR and Partners' Response

 Through the Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP)<sup>2</sup>, UNHCR and its partners continue to **repair and pave roads**, implement **slope stabilisation works**, and step up drainage clearance in refugee settlements.

 As part of its commitment to support Bangladesh families who have been hosting refugees, UNHCR and its partner, BRAC, repaired the **connecting road from Palongkhali in Ukhiya sub-district to Choukhali.** The road was severely damaged by rains, hampering access for the 2,500 Bangladeshis living in the area. The road repair was undertaken through a cash-for-work scheme that provides job opportunities for the local communities nearby. The Bangladesh authorities and the host community were appreciative of UNHCR's initiative to support the host communities (*right photo*), which was completed in the week of August 17.



©UNHCR/F. Al-Khateeb

 During the reporting period, **753 refugees were relocated** to Camp 4 Extension in the northwest of the large Kutupalong refugee settlement. A total of **4,335 individuals** have been relocated to this site to date.



©UNHCR/I. Yeasmine



As part of a **disaster preparedness measure**, UNHCR and its partner, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, conducted **cyclone messaging refresher sessions to 350 Safety Unit Volunteers (SUVs)**<sup>3</sup> in seven refugee sites across Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts (*left photo*). The workshop included sessions on the use of warning flags to signal approaching cyclone threats. By early September, **more than 800 SUVs in 16 camps** will receive similar training with UNHCR's support.

<sup>1</sup> According to reports from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, which receives information from Site Management Support agencies, data is based on preliminary assessments. Figures are subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> A joint engineering project by UNHCR, IOM (International Organisation for Migration), and WFP (World Food Programme).

<sup>3</sup> The Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) are a refugee community safety committee established in all refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar. SUV comprises a maximum of 50 refugee volunteers to conduct specific preparedness activities and act as first responders on fire and other emergencies (including landslides, cyclones, and other weather events). 20 out of 50 refugees are assigned to the Government of Bangladesh's Cyclone Preparedness Program. The refugee volunteers receive a range of trainings such as fire safety, first aid, and emergency response from the humanitarian community including UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh.

## Key population figures

-  **900,000** total refugees (approx.)
-  **200,000** est. total refugees at risk of flood and landslide hazards
-  **41,700** est. refugees at high risk of landslide hazards

## Emergency evacuation

### Relocation due to high risk of landslide

-  **25,258** refugees out of **41,700** est. at high risk of landslide relocated from all 28 identified settlements
-  More than **90%** of work completed in 60 acre land in Kutupalong (1,395 shelters) and the site in Nayapara (48 shelters)

### UNHCR emergency evacuation plan

-  **42,000** refugees to be relocated with other families within the UNHCR managed camps
-  **14,450** refugees to be relocated/hosted within existing community infrastructures such as mosques, Temporary Learning Centers, etc.
-  **14,600** refugees to be relocated to community infrastructures within the host community\*
-  **60,000** refugees to be relocated to tents

## Progress

### Protection

-  **262** UNHCR Community Outreach Members (COMs) trained on awareness raising for landslide and cyclone risk
-  **161,808** refugees reached by **7,438** awareness campaigns on landslides and cyclone
-  **260** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
-  **700** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on fire fighting and landslide awareness
-  **15** Information Points out of **16** established

## Shelter & site improvement

-  **52** kilometers of road (brick road/footpath, Army Road) constructed
-  **3,800** meters of bridges constructed
-  **48** kilometers of steps constructed
-  **65** running kilometers of retaining structures built
-  **100** kilometers of drainages repaired/completed
-  **90,524** shelter upgrade kits out of **90,524** distributed
-  **80,737** pre-monsoon shelter tie-down kits out of **80,737** distributed
-  **9,560** family tents pre-positioned and **467** distributed
-  **242,825** plastic tarpaulins pre-positioned and **83,962** distributed
-  **128** storage containers out of **146** pre-positioned
-  **20** host community structures being upgraded

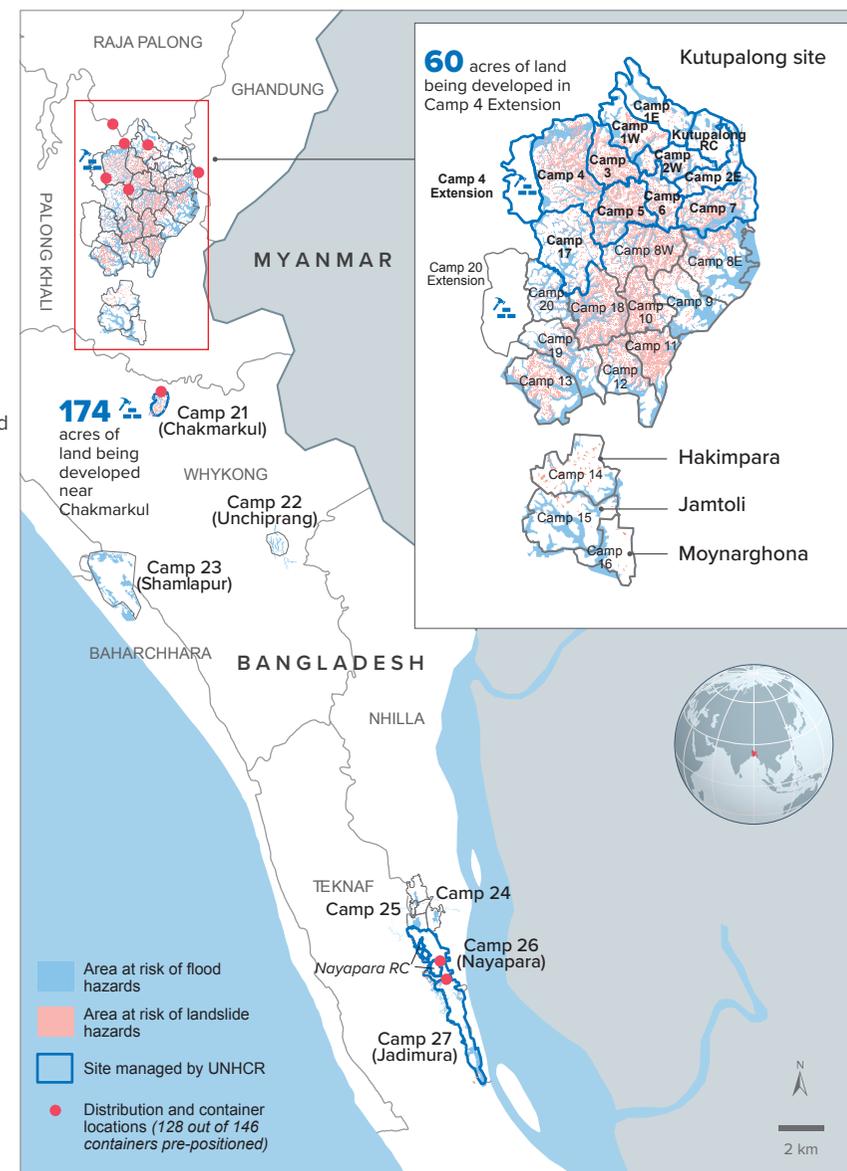
## WASH

-  **958** latrines out of **958** constructed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
-  **112** water points out of **113** installed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
-  **12** camps out of **12** with Emergency WASH Simulation exercises completed

## Health

-  **2,044** Community Health Workers out of **2,044** trained on first aid in emergencies
-  **400** Community Health Workers out of **400** trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
-  **800** Community Volunteers and Counsellors trained on psychological first aid, identification and referral of mental health cases, and basic counselling skills
-  **6** nutrition mobile teams established to reach displaced families

## Landslide and flood hazard analysis



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

\* Subject to approval from the government

## Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with other agencies (WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNDP) and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with UN agencies and other partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 23 partners, including:

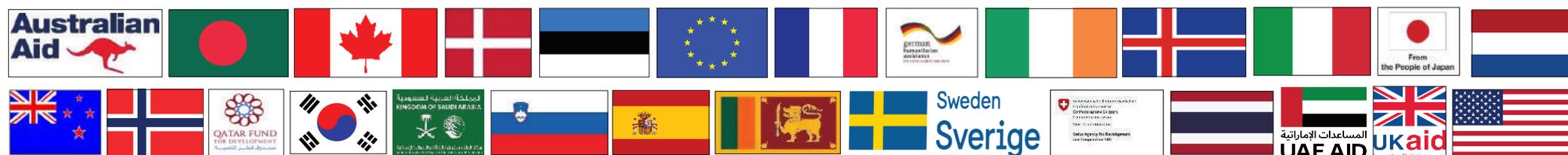
**ACF** (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with **safety unit volunteers (SUVs)** who support the emergency response, **community outreach members** who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, **community health workers** who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

## Donor support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

### Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018) and unrestricted funding to global operations:



*With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, International Islamic Relief Organization Kuwait Finance House, OPEC Fund for International Development, Prosolidar-Onlus Foundation, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.*

## Contacts

**Dalal Al Sharhan**, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, [sharhand@unhcr.org](mailto:sharhand@unhcr.org); **Mai Hosoi**, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, [hosoi@unhcr.org](mailto:hosoi@unhcr.org)

**Information Management**, [bgdcoim@unhcr.org](mailto:bgdcoim@unhcr.org)

**LINKS:** UNHCR data portal – UNHCR operation page – Facebook – Twitter – Latest stories – Instagram