



UNHCR is currently engaged in supporting registration for Rohingya living in all 34 settlements and host communities as part of a joint exercise with the Government of Bangladesh. The process updates registration previously conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and data from a family counting that was jointly implemented by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and UNHCR. The current joint registration exercise started in Teknaf in June 2018 and completed its initial processing there in January 2019. As of April 2019, the registration is being carried out at 6 sites.

Registration is one of the most important protection tools. For example, it can help identify and reunite refugees who were separated from their families. Separation could also happen within the camps following a natural disaster and registration data can be used to help. The registration document (biometric smart card) is the only identification document that many of the Rohingya have, and it can help establish a right to return and consequently help them re-establish themselves in their country of origin. The unique identifier on the registration card is also reliable for ensuring the correct amount of entitlements can be distributed.

Significant aspects of registration

The smartcard offers biometric data and an accurate record of who is in Bangladesh. This can improve the accuracy of assistance distributed, and ensure better planning for appropriate.

Registration process includes a formal consent process on sharing of information gathered, including for establishing the right of return to Myanmar.

The exercise synchronizes existing data and updates records to ensure that births, deaths, marriages and other family changes are accurately reflected in the data.

The smart card carries both UNHCR and Government logos and states that the holder will not be forcibly returned to Myanmar, thus enhancing their protection.

301,400 Rohingya registered in the Government of Bangladesh (GoB)-UNHCR joint exercise

Over 30% complete based on population estimates available through the Family Counting exercise

4,000 individuals a day being processed

6 registration sites operating

GoB-UNHCR joint registration aims to:

- 1** Provide persons of concern with identity documents in a form of biometric smart card
- 2** Ensure better overall assessment of population needs based on family data collected and enhance accountability
- 3** Improve overall general protection by having more precise data on specific needs such as disability, child population, and situation of women and girls

Way forward

At the current registration rate of 4,000 individuals per day, UNHCR expects to complete the first full round of registration by the end of November. Initial misunderstandings about the process and how it is related to future voluntary return to Myanmar were resolved through dialogue with the community. UNHCR's community-based protection teams with refugee volunteers helped explain the advantages of holding the smartcard and the significant increase in protection afforded by it. The registration data will be sharable, based on established agreements with major partner agencies, such as WFP to support food distribution. The data will also provide information for planning and service delivery and will be a valuable tool for identifying specific needs. The data will continue to be updated even after the initial completion of the first full round of registration.

Working in Partnership

UNHCR co-chairs the **Strategic Executive Group** together 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 a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian 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). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as with a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 28 partners, including:

Action Aid Bangladesh | **ACF** (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association) | **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society** | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **Caritas Bangladesh** | **Center for Natural Resource Studies** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **COAST** (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | **Danish Refugee Council** | **FH Association** (Food for the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **Handicap International** | **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation** | **Light House** | **Oxfam GB** | **Relief International** | **Mukti Cox's Bazar** | **NGO Forum for Public Health** | **RTMI** (Research, Training and Management International) | **Save the Children International** | **World Vision** | **Solidarites International** | **Terre des Hommes** | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **NRC** (Norwegian Refugee Council)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response. **Over 3,000 volunteers from the refugee community** are working side by side with humanitarian agencies.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2018/2019)

UNHCR's humanitarian response in Bangladesh is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR Bangladesh operations.

In 2018 and 2019, support has been received from the people and governments of: **Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.**

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