

Bangladesh

1 – 31 January 2021

On 14 January, a devastating **fire broke out in Nayapara** Registered Refugee Camp in Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar. Over 3,400 persons lost their homes and belongings, as the fire gutted 600 shelters, 150 shops and an NGO facility. **With the Government, UNHCR, WFP and partners coordinated the emergency response.** *Read the emergency response report [here](#).*

The Government of Bangladesh continued its relocation process of Rohingya refugees from the settlements in Cox’s Bazar to **Bhasan Char, with reports referring to some 7,000 refugees in total have now been relocated.** The UN has continued to highlight its request to be able to undertake **protection and technical assessments** and is awaiting permission to be able to proceed.

POPULATION DATA

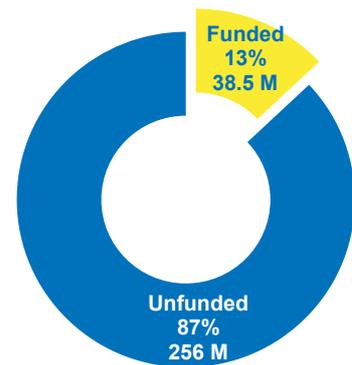
866,457 refugees in Cox’s Bazar district.

***830,938** refugees are registered under the Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR registration exercise. There are also **35,519** refugees from pre-2016 and who reside in the registered camps.

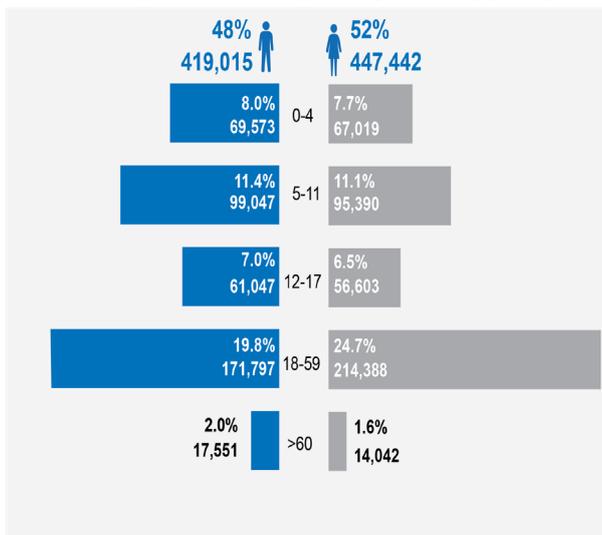
2021 FUNDING (AS OF 27 JANUARY 2021)

USD 294.5 M

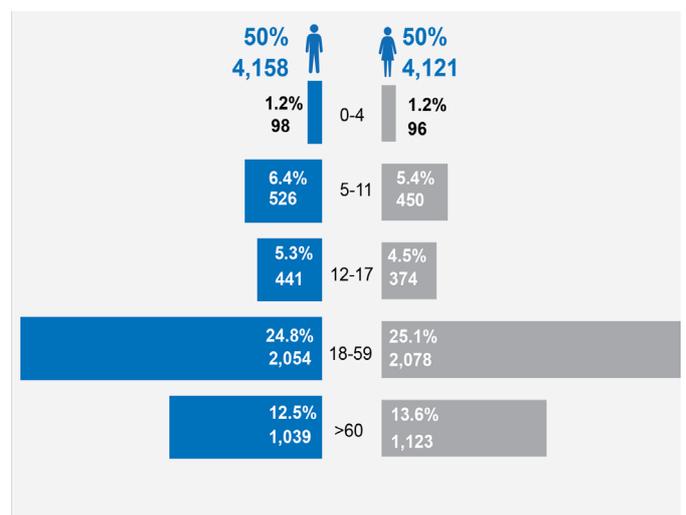
requested for Bangladesh



AGE BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEES



DISABILITY BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEES BY AGE AND GENDER



News

On 2 January 2021, UNHCR announced the appointment of Tahsan Khan, a popular Bangladeshi musician and actor, as its **first Goodwill Ambassador in Bangladesh**. Khan has been supporting UNHCR's advocacy and outreach activities since 2019. He visited the Rohingya refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar and supported UNHCR in the promotion of World Refugee Day and other events. UNHCR engages prominent individuals globally to highlight the situation of refugees and UNHCR's work.



Tahsan Khan is appointed as UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador for Bangladesh. © UNHCR/2021

Updates and Achievements



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since the first **COVID-19** case was detected in May 2019, the total number of confirmed cases in the Cox's Bazar refugee settlements has reached 377, including 10 deaths. UNHCR continues to manage two COVID-19 treatment facilities and is supporting the running of an Intensive Care Unit ward in the main District Hospital. These facilities serve both refugee and host communities. COVID-19 preventative sanitation work and hygiene promotion continues in the camps. In January, UNHCR, its partners and refugee volunteers, among other activities, achieved the following:



- 5,644 handwashing tippy taps were installed at household level.
- 473,731 household visits were conducted by Community Health Workers to provide health education on COVID-19.
- Hygiene promoters reached 317,654 refugees with messaging on hygiene and health guidelines through household visits and media campaigns.
- Community Outreach Members conducting training for Imams and female religious teachers, and in turn they conducted 6,378 awareness sessions related to COVID-19 reaching 96,105 refugees.

**PROTECTION****GBV risk mitigation through “Girl Shine”**

- Assessments indicate that adolescent Rohingya girls’ risk of gender-based violence (GBV) has increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, UNHCR will newly implement “Girl Shine” in 2021 through its partners BRAC and Relief International.
- As a first step to implementing the new programme, a training-of-trainers took place where 21 participants learned about the programme’s tools and core concepts. These staff members will facilitate the programme for the first cohort of girls in the camps after tool adaptation is complete.
- The programme model, originated by the International Rescue Committee, works with adolescent girls and their caregivers, building the girls’ life skills, social networks, and knowledge about GBV, enabling them to better protect themselves and their peers.

**ENVIRONMENT****Preparations for increased elephant activity in camp areas**

- During the winter, elephant activity increases in the camps and host community areas. This is due to rice and vegetable cultivation during these months, which attracts elephants.
- In January 2021, Elephant Response Teams (ERT) have reported 15 elephant sightings (higher than in January 2020) in camps or nearby areas.
- UNHCR and its partner International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have stepped up ERT patrols in the high-risk areas. These teams of refugee and host community volunteers are trained to manage incidents of human-elephant contact, manage crowds, and are provided with necessary tools to control situations.

**SITE MANAGEMENT****Capacity Sharing Initiative assessment and 2021 rollout**

- The preliminary findings from the Capacity Sharing Initiative (CSI) assessment conducted in December, has shown that 97% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that training conducted in 2019/2020 was useful.
- The CSI is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary training, capacity sharing and skills transfer platform that prepares and reinforces the Government of Bangladesh’s national site management staff.
- 2021 training-of-trainers began in January, facilitated by UNHCR, IOM and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), and will be rolled out across all refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. The first topic is Information Management, and other topics will take place throughout the year.

Working in partnership

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a co-chair of the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. UNHCR also leads on the protection response, as head of the Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR has valuable partnerships with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through the sectors and working groups, as part of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart in Cox's Bazar is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs in Dhaka, among other government ministries and entities. UNHCR staff work closely with the RRRC's Camp-in-Charge officials in the 34 refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the role played by the refugees in the response, with over 7,000 volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground.

UNHCR partners

MoDMR (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief) | Action Aid Bangladesh | ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) | BLAST (Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust) | BRAC (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | Caritas Bangladesh | Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) | COAST (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | CODEC (Community Development Centre) | Danish Refugee Council | FH Association (Food for the Hungry) | GK (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | Handicap International | Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation | IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | Light House | Mukti Cox's Bazar | NGO Forum for Public Health | Oxfam GB | Relief International | RTMI (Research, Training and Management International) | Save the Children International | Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable | TAI (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | Terre des Hommes.

Donors

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to this operation as well as those that contribute to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds. In 2020, support was generously received from: *Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America*. UNHCR is grateful for the additional support received from individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide, including: *Athmar Holdings, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CERF, Education Cannot Wait, Fondation EDF, Relief Singapore, Shih Wing Ching Foundation, Tanmeia, Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al Thani Humanitarian Fund, TTY Management B.V. and Zakat House*

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