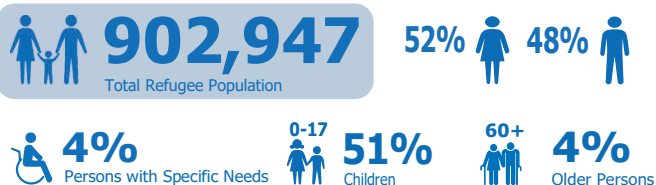


HIGHLIGHTS

On 29 September, Mr. Mohib Ullah, a prominent Rohingya refugee leader, was murdered in the camp in Cox's Bazar. The murder investigation is ongoing. The murder has deeply shocked and saddened the refugee and humanitarian community. UNHCR has urged the Government of Bangladesh to take immediate measures to ensure a safe environment in the camps. The authorities, supported by UNHCR, have enhanced the safety and protection of several refugee households most affected by the assassination.

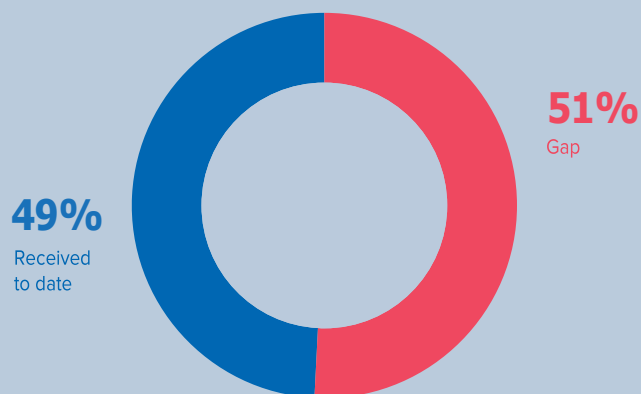
Following months of restrictions, humanitarian activities were permitted to fully resume in the camps on 9 September while continuing to respect strict COVID-19 protocols. The partial reopening of Learning Centres took place on 22 September after over 18 months of closure. In line with national regulations, primary level classes have resumed, while pre-primary level classes remain suspended. Preparations for the introduction of the Myanmar Curriculum Pilot are ongoing.

POPULATION UPDATE



FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements for Bangladesh: US\$ 294.5 million



CONTEXT

In September, the COVID-19 test positivity and death rate significantly decreased in both the refugee camps and the host community in Cox's Bazar district; 3,107 positive cases and 32 deaths have been recorded in the camps since March 2020.

As a result, the Government further eased COVID-19 related restrictions, and all humanitarian activities were permitted to resume in the camps, including the reopening of the Learning Centres, and safe spaces for women and children. Refugee and host community volunteers continue to contribute significantly to the humanitarian response.

While the monsoon receded throughout September, preparedness and response activities have increased in preparation for the upcoming cyclone season, with awareness raising and trainings for refugee volunteers who are the first responders when cyclones make landfall.





COMMUNITY BASED AND LEGAL PROTECTION



4,900 refugees participated in capacity development sessions to learn about or received legal assistance, as activities resumed fully in September.



Pilot Community Safety Forums resumed in the camps, bringing together law enforcement authorities and refugees to jointly assess protection risks and areas where attention is needed to improve the security environment in the camps and surrounding host communities.



An estimated 81,000 refugees benefitted from over 300 service projects completed by volunteer refugee Community Groups, ranging from cleaning campaigns to infrastructure repairs.



Over 100,000 refugees were reached through a variety of awareness campaigns, topics included COVID-19, vaccinations, cyclone preparedness, child protection, gender-based violence, human trafficking, downing prevention, health, and hygiene.



Refugee volunteers reached 27,000 members of their community through home visits, identifying, and referring 12,500 persons with specific needs to service providers.



On cyclone risk preparation, 110,000 calls were made, sharing pre-recorded awareness messages through the Interactive Voice Response project.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION

- Refugee children were able to access child friendly spaces across the camps, following the full resumption of activities and reopening of centres. Mental health and psychosocial support as well as recreational activities resumed from 11 September.
- 846 (408 male, 438 female) community members and leaders were trained on a community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women through the SASA! Together programme, which emphasizes social change and addresses gender inequality at the root of gender-based violence.



EDUCATION

- Learning activities resumed, at a limited capacity, following the reopening of over 2,000 learning facilities in all 34 camps, after completion of repairs and sanitization of the facilities. Upon return, students were provided with educational supplies and masks, as well as information on COVID-19 prevention. In line with national regulations, primary level classes have resumed, while pre-primary level classes remain suspended. Each learning centre operates in three daily shifts of two hours each, with a new group of students rotating in each shift. Each child will have access to a two-hour shift per week.
- 25 School Supervisors and Technical Officers completed training as part of their professional development, which started in February 2020, with the collaboration of Bard College. They will in turn mentor refugee teachers during the rollout of the Myanmar Curriculum in the camps.



PUBLIC HEALTH

- Following the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations in August, second round took place on 18 – 23 September. 33,386 refugees aged 55 years and older are now fully vaccinated (19,919 males, 13,467 females). UNHCR and the humanitarian community continue to advocate for Rohingya refugees of other age groups to be vaccinated, in line with the national vaccination plan.
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) visited over 624,000 households reaching some 1.2 million refugees (including repeat visits) with messages on COVID-19 prevention. 6,800 individuals with mild to severe COVID-19 symptoms were identified and referred to health facilities. 70,600 small group sessions were also conducted in the camps, to promote acceptance and reduce hesitancy towards vaccination.
- As of 30 September, the Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs) in the camps operated with an average occupancy rate of 37 per cent, down from 57 per cent in August. Patients continue to receive mental health support through psychologists, and their families through psychosocial volunteers.
- 8,000 hands-free handwashing devices were installed at household level. 102,000 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and public spaces were disinfected. Refugee Hygiene Promotion Volunteers reached some 230,000 refugees with COVID-19 messages, ranging from hygiene practices to mask wearing.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services resumed throughout the camps. All MHPSS centres have now reopened, ten stand-alone centres, and 16 at health facilities with integrated services. Over 1,000 individuals accessed one-to-one sessions, and 25,850 individuals attended group sessions.
- 36,840 children aged two to five were treated during a deworming campaign in September.



FIELD AND SITE MANAGEMENT

- 855 refugee volunteers (694 male, 191 female) participated in cyclone preparedness refresher training, in preparation for the upcoming cyclone season. Topics included early warning and flag systems, search and rescue, and information sharing with communities.
- A fire simulation exercise was conducted in Camp 4 Extension to train refugee response teams to use three-wheeler vehicles equipped with a water pump system and fire extinguishers. Representatives from the RRRC office, the Fire Department and other government officials, as well as refugee volunteers, and NGO partners attended the exercise.
- Small scale care and maintenance Community Led Projects (CLPs) resumed following the lockdown. 378 projects were completed this month, including repairing and maintaining pathways, bridges, and stairs. The areas in need of repair are identified by the refugee communities, and refugees are supported with a stipend and the necessary equipment and supplies to complete the work.



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

- The final inspection and test of solar power systems were conducted at four of UNHCR's Primary Health Care facilities in the camps. Two of the facilities now benefit from 24-hour reserve backup, while two have 12-hour reserve backup due to space limitations.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- To minimize the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), 350,000 refugees were reached with information on prevention and treatment measures. Water quality monitoring was scaled up, and over 300,000 water purification tablets were distributed in targeted areas for household water treatment.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UNHCR is a co-chair of the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh together with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. UNHCR also leads the protection response as head of the Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR has partnerships with UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through the various 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 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 camps, as well as a range of international and national actors. UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the role played by refugees in the response, with over 7,000 volunteers who are often the first responders on the ground.

UNHCR PARTNERS

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief | Action Aid Bangladesh | ACF | Bangladesh Red Crescent Society | Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust | Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee | Caritas Bangladesh | Center for Natural Resource Studies | COAST (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | CODEC (Community Development Centre) | Danish Refugee Council | FH Association | Gonoshasthaya Kendra | Handicap International | Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation | International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources | Light House | Mukti Cox's Bazar | NGO Forum for Public Health | Oxfam GB | Relief International | 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

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CONTACTS AND LINKS

Hannah Macdonald, External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar, macdonah@unhcr.org
Romain Desclous, Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka, desclous@unhcr.org

[LINKS: UNHCR data portal](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

