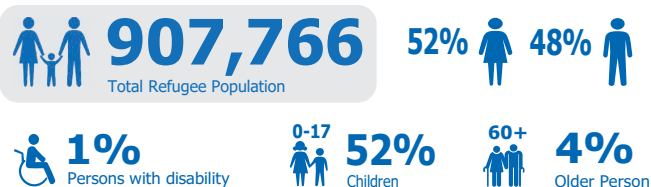


HIGHLIGHTS

A UN team, formed of UNHCR and WFP technical experts, conducted the first assessments and consultations on Bhasan Char to identify protection and humanitarian gaps.

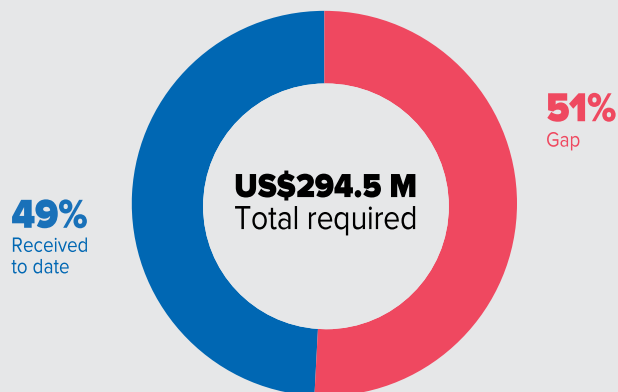
Over 750,000 refugees (87% coverage) above one year of age received their first dose of cholera vaccine, with the second dose due in November. The Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign (OCV) is being conducted by the Government with support from UN agencies, as several cases of cholera have been recorded in the camps and surrounding host communities.

POPULATION UPDATE



FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements for Bangladesh: US\$ 294.5 million



CONTEXT

A team of UNHCR and WFP experts, including logistics, site management, health, and community-based protection specialists, undertook a first needs assessment to Bhasan Char from 1 to 4 November. This mission, which will be followed by others, is a crucial step to identify protection and humanitarian gaps for refugees on the island and support operational planning. The assessments and consultations with refugees and NGOs already working on the island will help to define UN activities and support to the Government-led humanitarian response on Bhasan Char, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the UN signed on 9 October 2021.

On 22 October, a violent attack in Camp 18 resulted in the death of at least seven refugees and left several refugees injured, including children, who received medical care. UNHCR urged the Bangladesh authorities to take immediate measures to improve the security in the refugee camps, including holding those responsible accountable. Measures to ensure the safety of those most at risk following the attacks are being implemented, in line with UNHCR's protection mandate and in close cooperation with the authorities.

As of 31 October, 3,231 COVID-19 positive cases and 34 deaths have been recorded in the refugee camps since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Since August 2021, COVID-19 test positivity and death rate significantly decreased in both the refugee camps and the host community in Cox's Bazar district.

UNHCR and the humanitarian community continue to advocate for Rohingya refugees to be vaccinated, in line with the national vaccination plan which includes all adults above 18 years. Advocacy efforts are focusing on the resumption of the COVID-19 vaccination for refugees after the completion of the second round of the Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign.





COMMUNITY BASED AND LEGAL PROTECTION



An estimated 70,000 refugees benefitted from 445 service projects completed in October by volunteer refugee community groups, ranging from cleaning campaigns to infrastructure repairs.



Over 124,000 refugees were reached through a variety of awareness campaigns, with topics including COVID-19 prevention, vaccinations, cyclone preparedness, child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, health, hygiene as well as drowning prevention.



Refugee volunteers reached 32,000 members of their community through home visits, identifying, and referring 3,700 persons with specific protection needs to service providers.



50,000 calls were made to refugees, with recorded messages of COVID-19 awareness and mask wearing, through the Interactive Voice Response project.



850 refugees accessed Information Service Centres and Community Centres in five camps, where they downloaded content on menstrual hygiene, COVID-19 awareness, mental health and immunizations through offline Wi-Fi sharing hotspots.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR launched the “Survivor Access to Justice: A Notebook for GBV Actors” module and trained a first group of 22 GBV case workers (17 female, 5 male), providing relevant legal frameworks, processes, and services. The training module aims at strengthening referrals and survivors’ access to justice by closing the gap between GBV case management and legal service providers. A complementary module will strengthen legal service providers’ understanding of GBV case management. Both modules will continue to roll out through 2022.
- Training of UNHCR staff members and support staff took place to uphold UNHCR’s Zero Tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment: a training of trainers (‘Saying No to Sexual Misconduct’) was conducted for a multi-functional group of 26 UNHCR staff members. Participants will continue to rollout such trainings to cover all staff by the end of the year. A session on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was also held for support staff working in UNHCR premises in Cox’s Bazar.
- An assessment of all 93 of UNHCR-funded child protection facilities was conducted. The assessment will support the harmonization of statistics and rationalization of services in the camps. UNHCR also conducted 63 focus group discussions with children, parents, guardians, and other community members, with an aim to improve services and activities.



EDUCATION

- 1,000 Learning Centres were opened in the 34 camps this month, bringing the total to over 3,000 reopened since the lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions in September. In line with national regulations, primary level classes have resumed, while pre-primary level classes remain suspended. Each learning centre continues to operate 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 session each week.
- Following the success of a pilot project, 75 Bangladeshi School Supervisors and Technical Officers started their UNHCR-supported professional development programme, in collaboration with Bard College, and BRAC University. The training will be conducted over a six-month period, and the participants will in turn mentor refugee teachers during the rollout of the Myanmar Curriculum in the camps.



PUBLIC HEALTH

- In October, over 1,400 Community Health Workers (CHWs) conducted over 610,000 household visits, on average three visits to each refugee household across the camps, with messages on COVID-19 prevention and to identify those with symptoms for referral to health facilities. The CHWs conducted a further 53,000 small group sessions in the camps promoting vaccine acceptance.
- UNHCR continues to support two Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITC) and one Intensive Care Unit (ICU) providing services to both refugees and Bangladeshis. As of 31 October, the UNHCR supported SARI-ITCs registered a 22 per cent occupancy rate in the Ukhiya facility, down from 35 per cent in September, 38 per cent in Camp 5, and 28 per cent in the ICU/High Dependency Unit in Sadar District Hospital, Cox's Bazar town - the lowest occupancy rates in these three facilities this year. Patients continue to receive mental health support through psychologists, and their families through psychosocial volunteers.
- The annual nutrition survey was launched this month in the camps and is expected to end in November. The survey, which determines the health and nutrition status of the refugees, examines health, nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and mosquito net coverage. UNHCR's global Standard Expanded Nutrition Survey is being used, in collaboration with WFP, Action Against Hunger and other partners.
- On World Mental Health Day (10 October), UNHCR and partners organized activities and awareness sessions across the camps.



FIELD AND SITE MANAGEMENT

- Small scale care and maintenance Community Led Projects (CLPs) continued across the camps. 445 projects were completed this month, including repairing and maintaining pathways, bridges, and stairs. Refugee communities identify the areas in need of repair, the necessary equipment and supplies are then provided, and refugee volunteers receive a stipend to complete the work.
- A fire simulation exercise was conducted in Teknaf camps to train refugee response teams on the use of three-wheeler vehicles equipped with water pump 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.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to rollout the Capacity Share Initiative which was developed to share information and knowledge of all aspects of the humanitarian response with government officials working in the camps. 60 participants attended training in October.
- Distribution of core relief (NFIs) continued, including regular distribution of female hygiene kits to over 40,500 individuals, and bathing soap and laundry soap to over 76,000 households. Targeted distribution of bedsheets to over 20,400 households also took place in October.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- Over half a million refugees received information on prevention and treatment measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). Water quality monitoring was scaled up, and over 300,000 water purification tablets were distributed in targeted areas for household water treatment.
- UNHCR completed the annual Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Round I survey of 1,650 health workers in the 14 camps where UNHCR leads WASH activities. The exercise will enable the planning and design of the response activities for 2022.





ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- UNHCR continued to provide access to a cleaner and safer alternative to firewood for cooking and protecting the environment. 69,917 LPG cylinder refills (equivalent to 839 tons of LPG) and 428 new cooking sets were provided to refugee families.
- The Elephant Response Teams (624 refugee and host community volunteers) successfully managed eight potential human-elephant conflicts in high-risk areas of the camps.
- Seven Youth Environment Clubs in the camps and host communities attended sessions providing basic knowledge on environment, prevention of environmental and water pollution and degradation, as well as environmental project design and implementation.
- The Sustainable Land Use Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) project progressed with the completion of a Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment and engagement of other sectors to initiate integrated planning for the Shoa Ma'r jhiri watershed, an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet, in two camps.



SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT PLANNING

- In October, over 4,900 households in UNHCR-managed camps received support to strengthen or repair their shelter. Such support is provided on a need's basis, following assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners. In 2021, some 35,000 households have received shelter support.
- Construction projects to improve and maintain access and safety in the camps included construction, maintenance, replacement of 1,903 meters of slope stabilisation, drainage (2,374m), stairs (1,933m), access roads and footpaths (6,342m) and pedestrian bridges (911m).



LIVELIHOODS

- In October, some 3,500 refugee and 2,500 Bangladeshi households received seeds and saplings, organic fertilizer (vermicompost and oil cake), trainings and other material to support small-scale agricultural activities. A further 1,200 refugee households received material to start a vertical garden in their shelter.
- Following the re-opening of centres in the camps, over 700 refugees and 360 Bangladeshi women were engaged at production and training centres.
- 40 youths started skill development training in the host community in three different trades: driving, computer learning, and electrical works.



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- As of 31 October, 15,000 extremely vulnerable Bangladeshi families residing in Sadar, Kutubdia and Moheshkhali, in Cox's Bazar District, have received a one-off cash transfer from UNHCR. The families were identified by the District Administration, based on the economic impact of the COVID-19 lockdown.

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

