



Assessment missions on Bhasan Char. UNHCR/R. Portilla

UNHCR and partners have set up the COVID-19 vaccination campaign targeting Rohingya refugees aged 18 and above, in line with the Government's vaccination plan. The target population is 390,000 persons, including all adults, and those over 55 years of age who might not have been vaccinated in the first round in August/September when 36,000 were immunized. Community health workers supported the immunization drive by conducting over 30,000 awareness sessions.

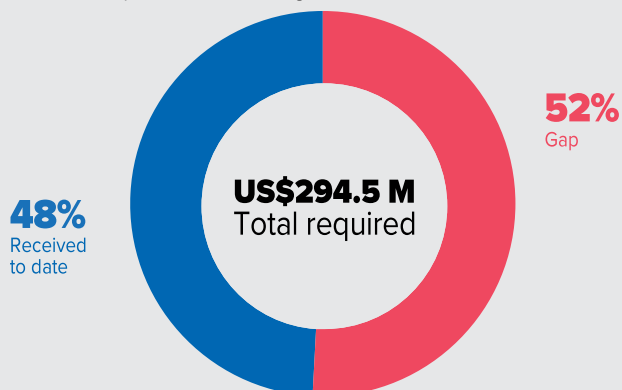
Overall figures of the COVID-19 impact on the refugee population remained low with 3,416 positive cases and 34 deaths.

UN agencies are conducting technical needs assessment missions on physical and mental health, nutrition, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation, energy and environment, site management, and protection needs, following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Bangladesh and the UN, under the coordination of UNHCR. The results will inform the operational plan to complement the Government-led response and support Bangladeshi NGOs working on the island. In the meantime, the UN is also responding to urgent needs already identified, mainly related to health, nutrition, and protection. UNHCR has begun registration and data verification of the refugee population living on the island, which will form the critical foundation for further planning of UN activities and support on Bhasan Char.

The Government of Bangladesh resumed the relocation of Rohingya refugees on 25 November. Short of 380 people were moved from camps in Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char. UNHCR monitored the process. UNHCR has offered technical guidance to ensure the process of relocation is aligned with the principle of voluntariness as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

### FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements for Bangladesh: US\$ 294.5 million



### POPULATION UPDATE



**907,766**

Total Rohingya Refugee Population

**52%** 

Over half of the population are children. 4% has specific needs. These include single caregiver,s/parents, persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, among others.

**48%** 



### PROTECTION



Swimming Lessons for refugee boys. Terre Des Hommes

- 60 Rohingya adolescent boys successfully completed swimming training, as part of drowning prevention activities, while including girls will require additional awareness raising. Fatal drowning incidents among children under five in the camps and host communities are an important concern.

- More than 590 small scale care and maintenance Community-Led Projects (CLPs) were completed, including repairing pathways, bridges or stairs to benefit 65,400 refugees. Refugee volunteers identify the needs and complete the work with the support of UNHCR and partners who provide equipment and supplies, and a small stipend.

- 11,480 calls from refugees were received by the Information Service Centres operating inside the camps to support with numerous concerns, from losing ID documents to serious protection concerns.

- Community members also conducted over 5,200 home visits, during which 4,197 persons with specific needs were identified and referred to service providers. Repairs of 56 shelters for vulnerable individuals, including 30 female-led households were supported.

- 3,058 refugees received legal assistance, including legal counselling/advice, legal representation or mediation. A further 450 refugees attended legal awareness sessions.

- Refugee volunteers, including Community Outreach Members, imams and female religious leaders, reached over 136,000 refugees through awareness campaigns on COVID-19 and vaccinations, healthcare, fire safety, child protection, GBV (gender-based violence) prevention, trafficking, and education. Additionally, some 35,400 pre-recorded calls were made through the Interactive Voice Response project with messages on fire safety, monsoon and cyclone preparedness, and COVID prevention. One of the main gaps identified is that many female refugee volunteers lack mobiles and connectivity in comparison to their male counterparts, preventing them from participating in remote activities.

- Capacity development training on “Best Interest Procedures of the Child” to enhance child protection capacities and services was provided to 89 partner staff and 90 UNHCR staff received a refresher course.



### PUBLIC HEALTH



Cholera Vaccination Campaign in Kutupalong camp. UNHCR

- 735,907 refugees and members of the local communities were vaccinated against cholera, following the Oral Cholera Vaccination Campaign for those age one (1) year and above that started in October.

- COVID patients, both refugees and Bangladeshis, continue to have access to health services, with UNHCR supporting two Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITC) and one Intensive Care Unit (ICU). As of 30 November, occupancy at the SARI-ITCs was 39 per cent in Ukiya, 22 per cent in Camp 5, and 52 per cent in the ICU/High Dependency Unit in Sadar District Hospital in Cox’s Bazar town.





### FIELD AND SITE MANAGEMENT

- Five fire exercises were conducted to train refugee response teams on the use of three-wheeler vehicles that are equipped with a water pump and fire extinguishers. Ten such vehicles are already in use, to extend the response to all camps, UNHCR is procuring 24 additional three-wheelers equipped with water pumps.
- Distributions included 400 LPGs (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) sets and 67,200 refills for refugees and 2,400 for vulnerable members of the host communities.
- 3,000 women received Female Hygiene Kits and some 76,000 households received soap for hygiene and laundry. UNHCR also distributed blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and other items in response to specific needs.



Fire drill exercises with refugee volunteers. UNHCR/ R. Portilla



### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT PLANNING

- Over 6,300 households received support to strengthen or repair their shelters, following assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners. This brings to 41,000 the number of households that have received shelter support in 2021.
- Construction and maintenance projects were completed to improve access and safety in the camps. This includes 1,450 meters of slope stabilization; 1,023m of drainage; 926m of stairs; 2,357m of access roads and footpaths as well as 729m of bridges for pedestrians.
- To support Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees, construction work to strengthen health facilities is ongoing at Cox's Bazar District Hospital (65 per cent completed) and Ukhiya's Sub-District Hospital, (55 per cent completed, including electrical design).



### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- Lighting strikes have caused four deaths in 2021. UNHCR is installing lighting arrestors to prevent this from happening, 90 out of 159 have been installed.
- Five health facilities continue to be powered by solar energy.
- 62 staff members of the Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office completed an interagency capacity development programme on energy, as part of the climate action response.





### LIVELIHOODS



Families start planting in Kutupalong camps. UNHCR/R. Portilla

- More than 8,840 refugee and 2,500 Bangladeshi households received seeds, fertilizer, training and support to set up vertical gardens in their shelters. Agricultural production allows for a varied diet, while potential surplus can provide alternative earning opportunities.
- 1,290 women (915 refugees and 375 from host community) are engaged in livelihood projects and are learning new skills.
- MADE51, a UNHCR-supported global initiative designed to connect refugee artisans with markets, is looking to include jute products from one of the Rohingya refugee women projects to their portfolio.



### BHASAN CHAR

- Medical supplies, nutrition items and an ambulance were donated by the UN to partners working on Bhasan Char, while technical support was provided to strengthen health services in existing facilities. A mapping of health facilities was conducted and an integrated health and nutrition facility was established. Community health workers started training. Two additional ambulances were delivered to Noakhali to enhance services for the local population and include refugees referred from Bhasan Char.
- Following initial nutrition assessments, treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition cases started from 16 November 2021. Some 180 children are receiving assistance. More detailed data analysis is ongoing to further inform the response.
- Mental health assessments are ongoing, and a psychologist is now onsite.
- Some 210,000 essential relief items, such as hygiene kits, female hygiene kits and solar lamps, were delivered to refugees through NGO partners already operating on the island.
- The first community centre is now operational and an information point has started working, with community networks in need of being formalized and individual protection services to be further developed.
- UNHCR is also working on streamlining child-protection services, establishing community-based committees and building capacity of partners and refugee volunteers in the delivery of various services for children.

### 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

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and UN CERF.

With additional support received from individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide, including Education Cannot Wait, Giuliana Lagetto, Shih Wing Ching Foundation, TTY Management B.V., The Big Heart Foundation, Unilever (UK), and private donors from Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Spain.

### CONTACTS AND LINKS

Hannah Macdonald, External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar, [macdonah@unhcr.org](mailto:macdonah@unhcr.org)  
Romain Desclous, Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka, [desclous@unhcr.org](mailto:desclous@unhcr.org)

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

