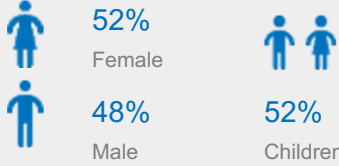




## POPULATION

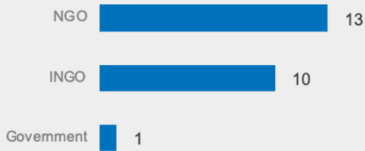
**965,467** # of registered refugees



as of 30 September 2023

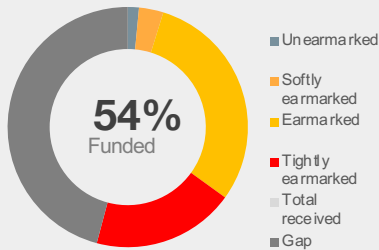
## PARTNERS

**24** # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2023



## FUNDING

**275 M** Funding for 2023 operations



as of 30 September 2023

## HISTORY

UNHCR has been a friend of Bangladesh since 1971, providing life-saving aid to some 10 million refugees forced to flee during the Liberation War.

Today, UNHCR and partners manage 16 camps in Cox's Bazar, including Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, plus the island of Bhasan Char, supporting the Government of Bangladesh to provide essential services and meet the protection needs of one million Rohingya refugees, including special services for women, children and persons with disabilities. Most arrived in 2017, fleeing persecution, large-scale violence and human rights violations.

Support is additionally extended to host communities while continuously working towards solutions to ensure that refugees can return in a safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable way once conditions in Myanmar allow.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

### September 2023



Rohingya boy on a cloudy day in Bhasan Char. © Amos Halder/UNHCR

## KEY UPDATES

- 2023 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN:** As of 30 September, the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP) is 41% funded with USD 358 million received against the overall appeal of USD 876 million, including USD 67 million for Bhasan Char. The 2023 Plan provides protection services and essential assistance to nearly one million vulnerable Rohingya refugees and a half million Bangladeshis in host communities. [Read more.](#)
- REGISTRATION EXERCISE:** The exercise to verify and update the registration data of refugees in Kutupalong Registered Camp (KRC) completed on 14 September, reaching 92% of KRC's pre-verification population of 18,063 refugees (3,372 households). On 24 September, the exercise began in Nayapara Registered Camp targeting 23,282 households.
- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) OUTREACH:** Consultations were held with 84 GBV prevention volunteers to gather feedback on the existing programme. Volunteers discussed their experiences using non-verbal GBV prevention materials, identified difficulties in conducting their activities, and offered suggestions for enhancement.
- LEGAL PROTECTION:** Workshops on facilitating access to justice and legal aid for Rohingya refugees were organized, separately, for the District police and pro-bono lawyers of the Cox's Bazar District Legal Aid Office. The workshops included sessions on UNHCR's protection mandate and activities, barriers and challenges in refugees' access to the national justice system, and opportunities for collaboration to address the challenges.
- MENTORSHIP TRAINING FOR TEACHERS:** In September, a second batch of mentorship training reached 83 master trainers (31 host community and 52 Rohingya) in four Cox's Bazar camps, taking the total to 256 master trainers including 102 refugees. This will be the final cohort as UNHCR prepares to handover all Myanmar Curriculum-related activities to UNICEF, the lead agency for the Education Sector.
- 'HELP' WEBSITE LAUNCH:** The Help website (<https://help.unhcr.org/Bangladesh>) was launched in September as a central place for refugees and asylum seekers within Bangladesh to find critical information. The site also includes useful links to UNHCR activities and services, as well as profiles and voices from the refugee community.
- HOPE AWAY FROM HOME ART CONTEST:** Across the camps, some 2,000 youth and 50 children participated in the UNHCR/UNIQLO refugee art contest 'Hope Away From Home'. The best among the 300 designs submitted to the global jury will be turned into t-shirts which will be available in select UNIQLO shops globally.
- VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION:** Workshops continued with 1,772 refugees (964 women) receiving training in seven trades, and 390 refugee women currently engaged in sanitary napkin and underwear production, with a target of 1.3 million sanitary napkins and 400,000 underwear to be stitched for camp wide distribution by the end of the year. Construction of a fifth training and production centre is slated for October.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1. BASIC RIGHTS, PROTECTION & EDUCATION

Refugee rights are respected, and they have access to education and protection, including protection against gender-based violence.

### 2. ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS IN A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Essential and sustainable services (including safe shelters, health, nutrition, WASH, energy) are ensured, and the environment is protected.

### 3. SKILLS & CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Work toward sustainable solutions, with voluntary repatriation at the centre, supported by skills development, livelihoods and capacity building for refugees.

### 4. DIVERSIFIED FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with development and private sector actors to innovate, support and localize operations.

### 5. CREATING A POSITIVE NARRATIVE

Lead the narrative on the Rohingya refugee response and improve public attitudes toward the Rohingya.

## DONORS

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Qatar Charity, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives.

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Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- **SECURITY SITUATION:** In September, the security situation in the Cox's Bazar camps remained complex, fluid, and unpredictable. Several shooting incidents involving criminal gangs were recorded, and law and order agencies conducted security operations, making at least seven arrests. In the last week of September, local Bangladeshis blocked access to several blocks in Camp 1E, shutting down activities in health posts, nutrition centres, learning centres, and water/sanitation facilities for several hours.
- **CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE:** 4,847 refugees and 2,500 Bangladeshi households received training on climate smart agricultural methods to bolster their resilience towards climate change. Distributions of goats and chicken to 2,450 Bangladeshi households were also completed.
- **IMPROVED SHELTERS FOR REGISTERED CAMPS:** In Nayapara Registered Camp, improved shelters have been completed and handed over to 312 out of 500 households. Meanwhile, in Kutupalong Registered Camp, UNHCR's partner has assessed 94 out of 110 applications, of which 32 have been submitted for approval from the camp authority.
- **HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION:** As part of the solid waste management strategy, door-to-door waste collection was scaled up, with distributions of waste bins in four camps. An expected donation of 30,000 bins from DPHE, the government entity for public health, is expected to address gaps in seven additional camps. To create community ownership and ensure project success, a multi-sector approach is needed with a focus on strengthening community engagement and behaviour change activities.
- **PRESSURE COOKERS FOR FUEL SAVINGS:** As of 30 September, all families in UNHCR-managed camps have received pressure cookers for more energy efficient cooking, together with training on how to use them. With less fuel needed to cook, savings can be made on LPG distributions. The new LPG refill cycle has now been applied to all households.
- **24/7 HEALTH CARE, OUT OF THE ASHES:** On 12 September, the new Camp 5 primary healthcare centre (PHC) was inaugurated. The original PHC was destroyed in a 2022 fire, and has been rebuilt with support from UNHCR. The centre will provide around-the-clock essential healthcare services for refugees in Camp 5 and neighbouring areas.
- **STATE OF NUTRITION ON BHASAN CHAR:** The second nutrition survey on Bhasan Char, conducted from 15-23 August 2023, found high rates of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months (14.7%) as well as critical levels of stunting (37.1%) and underweight children (34.4%). Acute malnutrition slightly decreased from 2022, when prevalence stood at 14.9%. Anemia among children aged 6-59 months also decreased, from 45.7% in 2022 to 37.6% in 2023.
- **MISSION REPORT:** In September, UNHCR hosted/assisted 16 visits from donors and partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including the UN Assistant Secretary-General Kanni Wignaraja and delegations from Australia, Canada, the US and Saudi Arabia.
- **NEW FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS:** In September, [new funding contributions](#) for UNHCR Bangladesh were received from the US and private sector partner Sony Global.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- ***"They are human beings like us, with strengths, vulnerabilities and hopes. We are glad we got to know them... as individuals with their own stories."*** Students participating in a UNHCR-supported certificate course on refugee law and protection wrote about their visit to the Rohingya camps. [Read more.](#)
- In September, UNHCR Bangladesh accounts published [12 Facebook](#) posts, [32 tweets](#) and [13 Instagram](#) posts on topics including [community health workers](#), the [UNHCR Refugee Education Report](#), the [Hope Away From Home campaign](#) and more.



**HOPE AWAY FROM HOME**  
Safety and dignity for people forced to flee

Join us in spreading kindness, empathy and support for people [#ForcedToFlee](#) their homes. [#HopeAwayFromHome.](#)