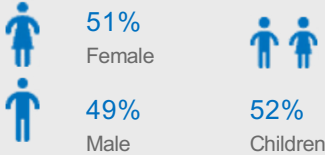




POPULATION

979,306 # of registered refugees

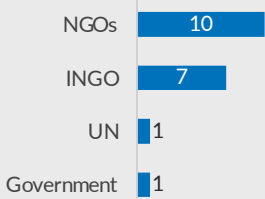
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 30 April 2024

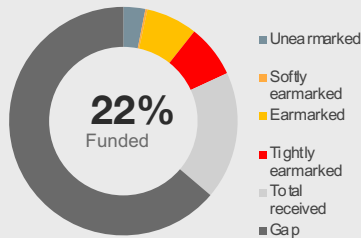
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



FUNDING

275 M Funding for 2024 operations



as of 30 April 2024

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

April 2024



Rohingya children sight the Eid moon, signaling the end of Ramadan and beginning of Eid festivities. @ Ro Abdullah, Rohingya photographer

KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 30 April, the 2024 JRP was [16% funded](#), with USD 133.2 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million. The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who remain dependent on humanitarian assistance, and includes more than 400,000 host community members. As the conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, international solidarity with Bangladesh and refugee protection is urgently needed. In 2023, the JRP was [65.2% funded](#) with USD 571 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- SEVERE HEATWAVE:** In April, a record-breaking heatwave [affected 80% of Bangladesh](#) and much of Southeast Asia, with temperatures of over 40° Celsius. To protect children, the Government closed schools, including learning centres in the camps. Crop production was heavily affected, including on Bhasan Char. In the camps, factors such as cramped conditions, lack of electricity and roofing made of plastic tarp [heightened risks](#) for refugees. Community health and psychosocial support volunteers disseminated messages on risk, prevention and danger signs to help refugees stay safe during the heatwave.
- CAMP SECURITY:** Protection Sector partners received information indicating an increase in alleged recruitment and use of Rohingya refugees by organized groups in the Cox's Bazar camps. The partners worked closely with the refugee community to identify protection concerns resulting from the reported recruitment. On behalf of the Protection Sector, UNHCR continued to share available information and recommended actions with relevant authorities to assist the latter to step up efforts to address areas of concerns.
- CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS:** Community-based child protection committees organized meetings in six camps to discuss and identify child protection concerns, coping mechanisms, challenges, and proposed practical solutions. Committee members identified safety and security in the camps (especially in the Ukhiya area), neglect of children, and child labour as the three issues having the greatest impact on the wellbeing of Rohingya children in Cox's Bazar.
- REFUGEE-ELECTED COMMUNITY COMMITTEES:** Elected community leaders provided critical community services in April, including organizing blood donations for 71 refugees, mediating camp disputes involving 78 refugees, and conducting awareness sessions across camps on equitable water distribution, tap usage and coping with the heatwave. Four UNHCR-managed camps are currently served by elected committees: Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, Camp 26, and Camp 4-Extension.
- YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:** Four new Rohingya youth environment groups (YEG) were trained on the importance of environmental protection, leadership, advocacy and project managements skills. UNHCR supports 25 YEG in camps and host communities, engaging refugee and local youth in environmental awareness and climate action, including solid waste management, planting care and maintenance, biodiversity conservation, etc.

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, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including adidas AG, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Zakat House of Kuwait and Tanmeia Foundation.

Contacts:

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Romain Desclois, desclois@unhcr.org, Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- **PRODUCTION CENTRES:** Currently 450 production volunteers — all Rohingya women — receive hourly incentives in five production centres manufacturing sanitary napkins and underwear for Rohingya women and girls in the Cox's Bazar camps. From April, the five centres are piloting new initiatives to increase cost efficiency and sustainability. Meanwhile, 50 women are in training to join the production lines, towards a target of 600 volunteers by December 2024.
- **LIVELIHOODS ON BHASAN CHAR:** Vegetable production fell by 25% and earnings fell by 22% due to the severe April heatwave and the end of the winter vegetable growing season. Meanwhile, 69% of gross earnings from aquaculture activities was re-invested in refugee-operated fish farms, up from 60% the previous month. The heatwave, delays in procurement and other factors also impacted poultry farming: in April, 24 of the island's 60 chicken farmers were able to bring poultry to market, earning an average of USD 30 each. The farmers currently raise 6,000 chicken per month — about half the monthly demand.
- **SHELTER & SITE PLANNING:** A quarterly review by UNHCR and shelter partners BRAC and NGO Forum found both significant progress and challenges. Challenges included a bamboo shortage that hindered timely shelter repair: as of 30 April, 34% of 3,487 refugee households verified for shelter support in the first quarter of 2024 were still awaiting repairs. Bamboo was sourced from IOM and BRAC to help mitigate the shortage. Meanwhile, 13.6 kilometres of drains, pathways, bridges, stairs, and slope protection were completed or repaired — a significant achievement. In some camps, CiCs allowed the use of cement and brick to enhance the structures' resistance to weather and fire-related wear and tear.
- **LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) ADJUSTMENTS:** To reduce risk of LPG-related fire incidents, such as January's fire in Bhasan Char which led to five deaths, UNHCR is considering a credit system to disincentivize refugees from attempting to forcefully release or transfer unused LPG from one cylinder to another. Households will be able to redeem credits based on actual consumption, allaying refugee worries of losing any gas remaining in cylinders. Meanwhile, an adjustment to the LPG distribution cycle was approved by the RRRC following the study results of the LPG consumption conducted in the last quarter of 2023. The new refill cycle will be adjusted to exact household size for more accurate LPG allocation.
- **WATER RATIONING:** The annual water rationing exercise was restarted in Teknaf to address the seasonal water shortage during the dry months (December-April), after a suspension for the month of Ramadan, as requested by community. Per person per day allocation has been temporarily reduced from 20 to 15 litres. The situation will be reviewed again in May, considering the availability of water in the reservoirs, while longer-term solutions continue to be explored.
- **MISSION REPORT:** In March, UNHCR hosted or assisted 12 visits from donors and partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including delegations from the US, European Union and Australia, and private sector partner Fast Retailing.
- **FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 30 April, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 22% funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. New contributions were received from Switzerland and private donors Kuwait Red Crescent Society and Zakat House of Kuwait.

IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- **"Protection is at the heart of every refugee response."** Elizabeth Tan, Director of International Protection, UNHCR explains why protection is so critical for refugees. [Watch Elizabeth.](#)
- **"The thing I miss most about Eid is visiting my grandfather's and friends' houses."** Omar Foysal, Rohingya refugee, recalls happy Eid days past and longs for home. [Watch Omar Foysal.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 25 [Facebook](#) posts, 35 [tweets](#) and 28 [Instagram](#) posts in April, including [Eid greetings](#), a [poster for Earth Day](#), thoughts on [Rohingya art](#), an explanation of what makes the Rohingya response a [protracted situation](#), and more.



Camp clean ups by refugee volunteers safeguard the environment and protect public health. On Earth Day 2022 (22 April) UNHCR celebrates 'heroes with rakes.' [Watch video.](#)