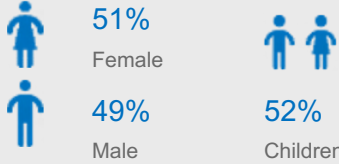




POPULATION

984,591 # of registered refugees

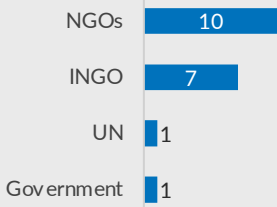
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 30 June 2024

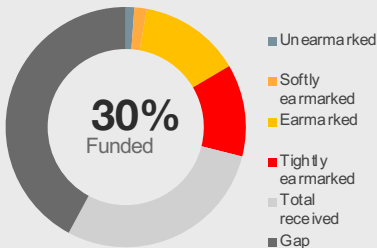
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



FUNDING

275 M Funding for 2024 operations



as of 30 June 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

June 2024



For World Refugee Day, UNHCR co-hosted a photo exhibition representing the resilience of Rohingya refugees as seen through the eyes of refugees and humanitarian workers. @ Syed Md Taffim/ISCG

KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 30 June, the 2024 JRP was **30% funded**, with USD 259.3 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million. The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who are 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 **66% funded** with USD 578 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- WORLD REFUGEE DAY:** UNHCR and partners marked World Refugee Day (20 June) in Cox's Bazar camps and on Bhasan Char with activities including a traveling cultural carnival, live art performances, art competitions, indoor and outdoor games, writing exercises, and more. An interagency photo exhibition, spearheaded by UNHCR, brought together photos showcasing refugee resilience. A full-colour photo spread in the [Dhaka Tribune](#), a national daily, highlighted global trends and called for renewed international solidarity in support of refugees and hosting countries.
- CAMP 4 EXTENSION:** Violence between organized groups surged in Camp 4-Extension in June, with three deaths and eight injuries. Refugees subsequently left Block F and self-relocated to other camps, leaving their shelters open to vandalism and damage from heavy rain. UNHCR continues to advocate with government officials for increased security, and permission was granted to establish a police post in the area. UNHCR will work with stakeholders, including the community, to replan the site, which has been heavily damaged.
- LEARNERS COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT:** In Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, UNHCR and partners conducted a competency assessment in English and mathematics for grades 1-8. Results will help identify learning gaps in preparation for a smooth transition from informal education to the English-based Pearson Edexcel curriculum. 3,123 students took the test (80% of learners in the registered camps). The Myanmar curriculum is not implemented in the two registered camps due to the different needs and preferences among this group of refugees, who arrived in Bangladesh in the 1990s.
- GIRL SHINE GRADUATION:** The first Girl Shine cohort of 2024 graduated in June, with 805 adolescent girls and 757 caregivers completing the programme. One girl graduate said, "Girl Shine helps me understand who I am, how I support others, and how to maintain my personal hygiene."
- NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:** New standard operating procedures (SOP) on continuous registration were rolled out in June. The new SOPs, approved by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) last month, include provisions for the timely registration of newborn refugee children and others to enhance the quality and efficiency of the Joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR population database. These measures will help ensure the database's integrity as a complete and accurate records of all Rohingya individuals and families residing in the camps through timely recording of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, departures, 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, France, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, 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:

Amy Jo Davies, davies@unhcr.org,
 External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar;
 Romain Desclous, desclous@unhcr.org,
 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- PLACING SKILLS GRADUATES:** Efforts to place successful graduates of vocational skills training programmes continued, with UNHCR and partners coordinating with camp actors to match graduating refugees with volunteer or self-employment opportunities. In Cox's Bazar, 1,412 graduates are earning stipends as volunteers in camps, and 679 graduates are generating income through crop cultivation, small shops in camps, and home tailoring – taking the total to 77% of graduates placed. On Bhasan Char, only 28.4% of graduates are placed. Partner BRAC is developing ideas to increase placement rates on the island.
- HEAVY RAINFALL:** Heavy rainfall since 18 June caused havoc in the camps. On 19 June, ten deaths from landslides were reported in the Cox's Bazar area, including seven refugee deaths. Mass messaging and awareness campaigns have been rolled out, as well as joint assessments to identify landslide and flood risk zones and at-risk families in UNHCR camps. In June, 510 shelters were full or partially damaged due to weather, and require repair.
- BAMBOO SHORTAGE:** As of 30 June, only 56% of *borak* bamboo and 16% of *muli* bamboo orders have been received, delaying repairs of refugee shelters. Annually, UNHCR requires 3 million pieces of *muli* bamboo for shelter and site development activities. Delay factors include reduced bamboo harvests, insecurity in the harvest region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) due to unrest in Myanmar, inconsistent market trends, and a ban on new transport permits in CHT. The office is urgently exploring alternate sourcing options. (**Borak* and *muli* are two kinds of bamboo used for construction.)
- BUILD BACK BETTER INITIATIVE:** Government authorities approved a pilot interagency plan to improve shelter construction in camps through use of more weather- and fire-resistant and environment-friendly materials. Better materials will reduce routine wear-and-tear of shelters and offer protection against extreme elements. Four prototypes will be piloted.
- INCLUSIVE SANITATION FACILITIES:** In 2024, UNHCR built 32 inclusive sanitation facilities in camps, taking the total to 474 facilities including 85 dedicated women's hygiene centres, 324 communal facilities, and 65 at household level. These facilities help ensure equitable access to safe and dignified sanitation services for women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Key features include ramps and wider doorways, gender separation to mitigate GBV risks, lower sinks and smaller toilets to accommodate children, adequate partitions to maintain hygiene and privacy, and well-lit pathways for safety.
- HEPATITIS C PREVENTION:** The Community Health Working Group (CHWG), led by UNHCR, developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials focused on hepatitis C prevention. The IEC materials aim to enhance community-based surveillance, support early detection and treatment, and raise awareness at the community level. A recent study by MSF found 30% prevalence of hepatitis C among refugees in camps. However, effective response is hindered by the lack of adequate testing and treatments, as well as limited evidence of the drivers of its transmission among the refugees.
- MISSION REPORT:** In June, UNHCR welcomed nine visits from donors/partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including delegations from the World Bank, Italy, Spain and Australia. UNHCR also hosted five Bangladeshi journalists on a camp familiarization visit.
- FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 30 June, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 30% funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. New contributions were received from France, Sweden and the USA.

IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- "By uplifting refugees alongside its own people, Bangladesh continues a tradition of solidarity and protection."** In an op-ed for World Refugee Day, UNHCR Representative Sumbul Rizvi called for sustained solidarity with refugees and refugee hosts. [Read the op-ed.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 29 [Facebook](#) posts, 52 [tweets](#) and 29 [Instagram](#) posts in June, including [solidarity messages](#) on [World Refugee Day](#), a spotlight on the popular Rohingya sport [sallun](#), updates on [deadly landslides](#) in Cox's Bazar, and an [inspiring video](#) of Rohingya footballers inviting Australia's Soccerroos to join them on the field.



Bangladeshi folk band Joler Gaan joined Rohingya musicians in Cox's Bazar for an afternoon of song, solidarity & connection [Watch video.](#)