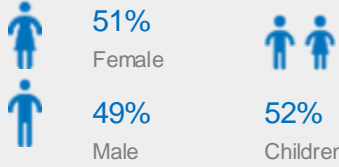




POPULATION

1,006,670 # of registered refugees

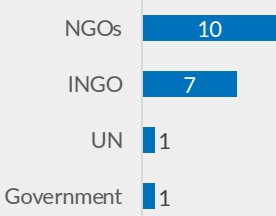
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 30 November 2024

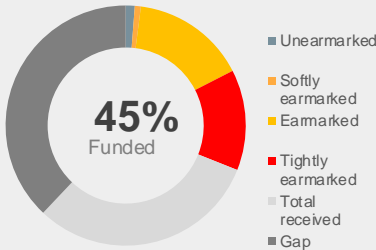
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



FUNDING

275 M Funding for 2024 operations



as of 30 November 2024

HISTORY

UNHCR has been present in Bangladesh since 1992, but the relationship has deeper roots. In 1971, during Bangladesh's Liberation War, UNHCR coordinated a massive relief effort to support 10 million refugees forced to flee for protection, and helped facilitate their return to the newly independent nation in the following months.

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

November 2024



Rohingya girls on Bhasan Char flew kites as part of 16 Days of Activism activities. © Fatema Ahamed/BRAC

KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 30 November, the 2024 JRP was **56% funded**, with USD 474.1 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million, according to the [FTS tracker](#). The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who depend on humanitarian assistance, and for more than 400,000 host community members. As the conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, international solidarity with Bangladesh and support for 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.](#)
- DATA PROTECTION & SHARING:** Through a data sharing agreement signed in July 2024, UNHCR is working with IOM to deploy the Global Distribution Tool (GDT), UNHCR's tool for identity management and assistance tracking, to manage distribution of assistance and verification of third-country departures. In Cox's Bazar, the GDT is also used to eliminate impersonation during enrolment and examinations in UNHCR-supported livelihoods and curriculum-based skills training programmes, to avoid simultaneous enrolment in multiple programmes, and record information in ProGres. In November, UNHCR finalized data protection agreements with 15 partners, and conducted capacity-building trainings for UNHCR and partner staff.
- PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE:** UNHCR organized activities to address refugee-host tensions in Teknaf's Nayapara area – including sports activities, discussions and sensitization sessions among various host community groups, as well as camp-level discussions between camp authorities, refugee and host community leaders. The Peaceful Co-existence Committee, convened by UNHCR partner COAST, serves as a platform for influential host community leaders to discuss the current situation.
- PEACE & SECURITY CAMPAIGN:** The Peace and Security Campaign is a UNHCR-led interagency initiative promoting messages of non-violence in the Cox's Bazar camps. UNHCR and partner staff, members of the Peace & Security working group, and 40 Rohingya refugee volunteers participated in a Communication for Peace Workshop to develop skills in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Participants learned how to create meaningful dialogue to foster peacebuilding, and social cohesion and how to achieve inclusive and sustainable outcomes.
- ASSISTING NEW ARRIVALS:** UNHCR distributed basic relief items to 7,325 newly arrived households in UNHCR-managed camps, all of whom had received tokens during the October 2024 headcount exercise. Assistance included blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, buckets, solar lamps, and WASH hygiene kits provided by UNICEF. Families received compressed rice husks as cooking fuel, with LPG distribution for new arrivals on hold pending their biometric verification. UNHCR continues advocacy for full biometric registration of new arrivals and calls for non-refoulement and regulated access to safety for civilians forced to flee, in line with international frameworks. Seeking asylum is a human right, every person has the right to apply for asylum if they are fleeing conflict or persecution.

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, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); multi-stakeholder fund Education Cannot Wait (ECW); 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, daviesa@unhcr.org,
External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar;
Romain Descloux, descloux@unhcr.org,
Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- DIVERSIFIED PARTNERSHIPS:** As part of UNHCR's private sector engagement, senior managers of seven social enterprises visited Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar between 10-14 November to see first-hand the refugee response, focusing on livelihoods activities and potential areas of collaboration. Pending Government of Bangladesh (GoB) approval, UNHCR plans to operationalize partnerships with the social enterprises, prioritizing refugee products from Bhasan Char as the GoB-approved skills development framework allows greater flexibility for livelihoods on the island. Meanwhile, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank (WB) shared findings from October's joint mission on Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar. An umbrella project led by IFC, with UNHCR and WB participating, has been proposed, with the concept note to be developed by end of January 2025.
- BAMBOO SUPPLIES:** Deliveries of muli bamboo improved, allowing UNHCR and partners to address the shelter repair assistance backlog. In November, 5,588 households received shelter repair materials, leaving 3,870 eligible households awaiting support. Additionally, 260 shelters – including 160 CBS shelters – were constructed across UNHCR-managed camps, taking the number of households receiving regular shelter repair and maintenance to 36,991, exceeding the 2024 annual target of 35,870. To address the continuing *borak* shortfall, UNHCR is transitioning to a composite shelter design that requires fewer *borak* pieces. (*Borak* and *muli* are two kinds of bamboo, with the thicker *borak* pieces used mainly as weight-bearing pillars).
- UPDATE ON CAMP 4 & CAMP 26 SITE PLANNING:** UNHCR has replanned Camp 26, Block H (comprising 242 households) to address the risks of the low-lying, flood-prone area. Construction is proceeding in phases: First, 75 families will receive composite bamboo shelters (CBS) on stilts; 48 CBS shelters were completed by end-November (75% progress), and all 75 households are expected to move into their new shelters in January 2025. Construction of an elevated pathway with steel frames and ramps to connect shelters is ongoing, and two of three planned tap stands have been installed, ensuring WASH equitable access for all families. In the second phase, construction of 178 shelters should begin in mid-January for completion by April 2025. This phased approach allows families to temporarily stay with relatives in the area, minimizing disruption to their daily lives. Meanwhile, in Camp 4-Extension, Block F, construction of double-story shelters for 75 families is 10% complete, and construction of single-story CBS shelters for 220 families has begun. The Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission approved UNHCR designs for key infrastructure including a youth sports centre, livelihoods centre, common kitchen, and other facilities.
- HYGIENE KNOWLEDGE & AWARENESS:** A household survey in Cox's Bazar camps identified improvements in WASH knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) across camps, and areas requiring further attention. Notable findings include: high hygiene awareness, with 90% of respondents reporting regular handwashing with soap; good progress on waste sorting at the household level, with 68% of households now segregating solid waste using the 'organic' and 'inorganic' bins; a decline in safe access to sanitation facilities, with only 64% of women feeling safe to use communal latrines at night compared to 70% in 2023; and further efforts needed to ensure camp cleanliness with only 55% of households and surrounding premises reported to be visibly clean, with no waste within a 30-meter radius or in open drains. The KAP findings will inform targeted WASH programming and 2025 strategy. An interactive dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

- MISSION REPORT:** UNHCR welcomed 14 visits from donors/partners in November, including the ambassadors of Finland and Sweden, the Deputy Ambassador of the European Union, delegations from France and Indonesia, and Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary.
- FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 30 November, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 45% funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million.

IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- On the occasion of COP 29 (11-22 November), UNHCR published "[No Escape: On the frontlines of climate change, conflict and forced displacement.](#)" a report analyzing the vast scale of climate change's impact on people forced to flee. [Read the report.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 29 [Facebook](#) posts, 32 [tweets](#) and 24 [Instagram](#) posts in November. Posts included [messages](#) from [humanitarian and Rohingya women](#) in honour of [16 Days of Activism](#), a spotlight on [World Science Day](#) (10 November), and a [message](#) from UNHCR Representative Sumbul Rizvi on climate change.



CHALLENGE FALSE NARRATIVES AND STEREOTYPES ABOUT REFUGEES

UNHCR's #NotoHate campaign asks us to use our platforms to challenge false narratives and stereotypes about refugees.

f UNHCRBangladesh @UNHCR_BGD unhcr_bgd