9,108

Refugees were supported with protection case management services; 611 individuals referred for longer-term solutions.

34,769

Refugees were supported with free legal assistance

43,510

Refugees reached through legal awareness sessions

5,365

Mediation cases reported; **80% cases** successfully resolved

4,808

Individuals affected by refoulement-related incidents recorded by border monitoring team

Certificate award ceremony for refugees participated in the Legal Literacy Course ©UNHCR

Key achievements

Protection Monitoring & Case Management: The Legal Protection Unit conducts protection monitoring across all 33 camps, generating evidence-based analysis on refugees' safety and security risks, informing advocacy and engagement to support the civilian and humanitarian character of camp. Protection monitoring findings continued to highlight a fragile protection environment, however, serious security incidents decreased by **16%** between 2025 and 2024 according to Protection Sector data. **9,108** refugees received case management services, including 611 individuals (136 families) referred for longer term solutions. Casework remained essential for facilitating access to safety and justice for victims of violence, exploitation and abuse.

Border Monitoring: In 2025, UNHCR conducted **126** border monitoring missions and produced 45 weekly reports with the latest information on the fluid and sometimes volatile border situation. UNHCR intervened with authorities for **808** individuals detained in border areas, leading to the release of **143** vulnerable individuals (18%) and their safe transfer to the camps, despite the closed-border policy.

Legal Assistance: Between January to December, total **34,769** refugees (**57%** of whom were women and girls) accessed legal aid services. Legal assistance was provided mostly in cases where refugees were victims of violence, abduction, threats, physical assault, killing, detention, human trafficking and family related disputes. Mediation support was provided to **10,727** refugees, mainly on family and civil matters; **80%** of these cases were resolved successfully. Over **43,367** refugees participated in legal awareness sessions. Through legal literacy courses, **361** refugees including volunteers, peace mediators, teachers, community representatives, and youth leaders were empowered to enhance legal knowledge and strengthen community dispute resolution.

Capacity Building: In 2025, a total of **1,690** individuals were capacitated including **927** government officials (APBn, police, judges, Camp-in-Charges, border security forces and ANSAR), 28 pro bono lawyers, 642 humanitarian staff and 93 refugee protection volunteers. UNHCR organized a visit to the refugee camp for 34 judges in coordination with Bangladesh's Judicial Administration Training Institute to enhance understanding on access to justice challenges for refugees and explore collaboration. These efforts contributed to strengthening the overall protection environment by encouraging key stakeholders to improve refugee protection.

98% Positive service rating in Quality Assurance Survey

624 Refugees assisted with filing complaints and cases in police stations and courts

927 Government officials trained on refugee protection

16% Decrease in serious security incidents between 2024 and 2025

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Challenges

- Closed-border policy has resulted in deportations and pushbacks that affected over **4,800** individuals in 2025.
- The presence of organized groups within the camps poses challenges to maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps. Though conflict between the groups has been reduced in 2025, group members continue to inflict abuses on the community such as abductions and violence.
- Barriers to accessing justice persist. Refugees require administrative approval to leave the camp to file cases with the police and the court, which sometimes affects speed and ease of reporting. There is also fear of retaliation by perpetrators and a lengthy court process which may erode trust in formal institutions. In response, some refugees choose informal dispute resolution which is sometimes exploitative.
- Reduced funding poses challenges to maintaining the presence of legal officers delivering crucial legal services in camps: at the start of 2026, legal partners only received one-third of their required budgetary needs. The number of lawyers was consequently reduced by **21%** in January 2026 with further reductions on the way if funding is not received. These constraints directly affect the timeliness of response and level of support for refugees facing urgent safety and security concerns.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen data-driven advocacy** by improving tools for analyzing camp-specific security trends to inform targeted, evidence-based engagement.
- **Enhance coordination and referral mechanisms** with humanitarian partners to maintain effective protection monitoring and case management despite staffing constraints.
- **Deepen multi-sectoral synergies** – including with Field and Site Management—to address environmental safety risks (e.g., improved camp lighting) and complement advocacy for stronger, protection-sensitive law enforcement presence.
- **Advance protection-sensitive entry and border management systems** by sustaining advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh and strengthening cooperation with border authorities through training and tools.
- **Expand strategic partnerships** with Bangladesh Coast Guard to prevent and respond to human trafficking, smuggling and other grave protection risks.
- **Improve access to justice** by advocating for enhanced witness and victim protection and continue to explore video-conferencing options to facilitate court appearances for refugees.
- **Build capacity of refugee volunteers,** including through legal literacy courses, to enhance community outreach and increase legal awareness in their own communities.

UNHCR and Legal Partner BLAST facilitating release of individuals forcibly removed from India to Bangladesh and arranging their transport to camps.

UNHCR Protection Staff trains Armed Police Battalion staff on protection principles while maintaining safety and security in the refugee

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Bangladesh

Legal Protection

Factsheet | 31 Dec 2025

Total beneficiaries

90,445 *

UNHCR provides free legal services to refugees in the 33 camps in Cox's Bazaar and Bhasan Char through partner organizations BRAC and BLAST. UNHCR conducts protection monitoring across all camps and provides individual case management support to refugees.

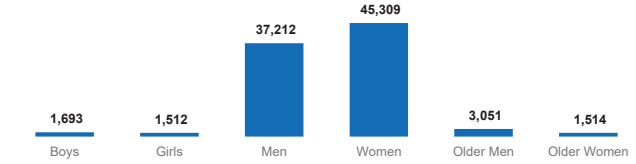
As of 31 Dec 2025, 90,445 refugees benefited from individual protection case management and legal services including legal counseling, legal assistance, mediation support, representation in court, and legal awareness raising.

78,835
# of refugees received legal assistance (counselling, mediation, legal representation, intervention for the release from detention)

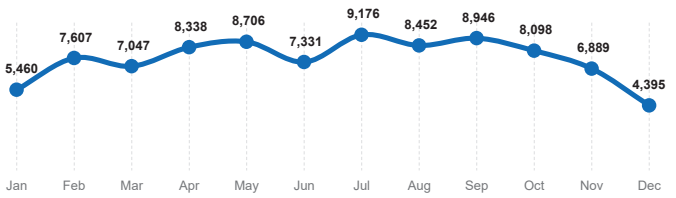
4,214
# of successful mediation cases

43,510
# of refugees reached through legal awareness sessions

Age and gender



Monthly trend (beneficiaries reached by month)

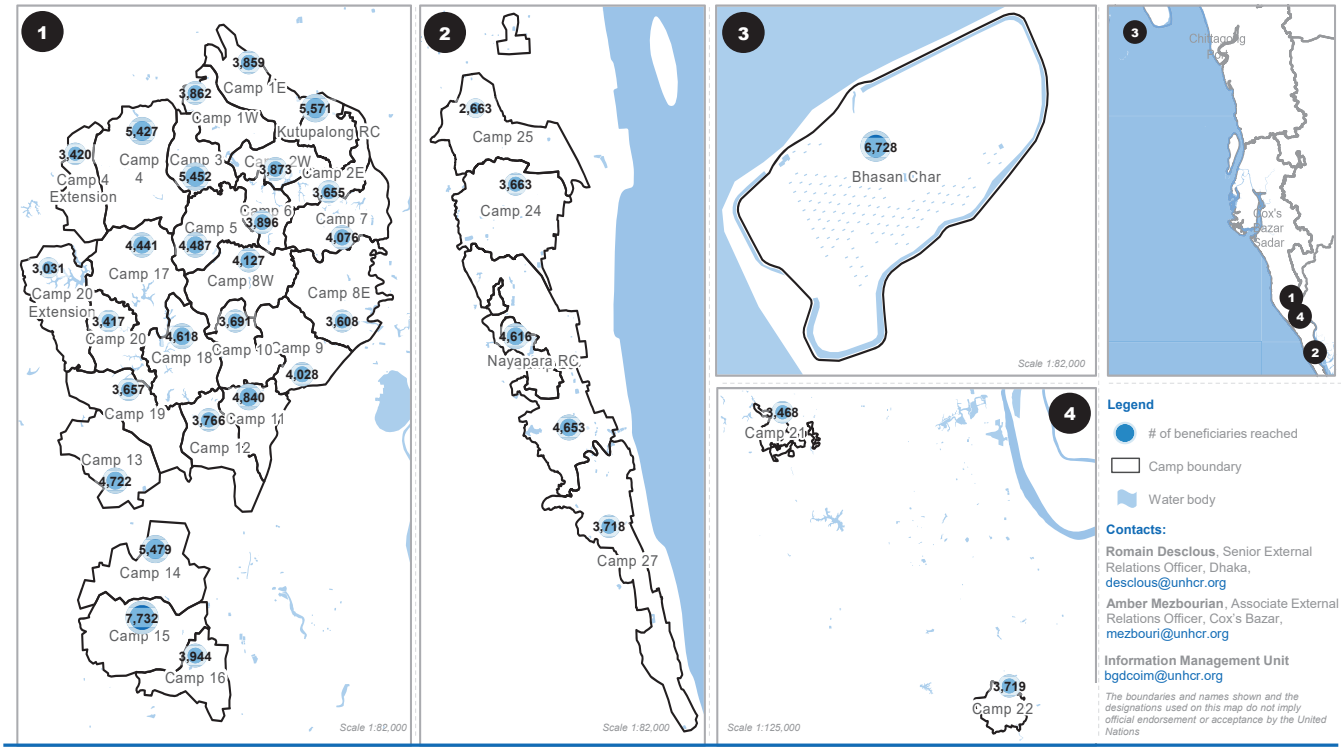


Key achievements

Progress against target

	REACHED	TARGET
# of refugees received legal counselling (100%)	22,047	19,000
# of refugees received mediation support (100%)	10,729	9,792
# of authorities and humanitarian staff trained on refugee protection (80%)	1,598	2,000
# of refugees represented in court (99%)	584	590
# of refugees assisted to file cases (100%)	625	432
# of refugees who participated in legal awareness sessions (100%)	43,510	41,580
# of refugees supported through individual protection case management and referrals (99%)	9,108	9,223
# of refugees receiving transport assistance to visit relatives in prison (100%)	699	680

Geographic overview (beneficiaries reached by camp)



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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Print date: 09 Feb 2026

Sources: UNHCR Partners (Activity Info)

Partner: BLAST, BRAC

*The number of beneficiaries shown across the factsheets includes individuals who received multiple forms of assistance and does not represent the unique number of individuals assisted.

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, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, 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., and Tanmeia Foundation.