

OVERVIEW

The Rubber Plantation Transit Centre (TC) in Kutupalong was established to temporarily receive newly arrived refugees in urgent need of life-saving assistance pending their relocation to the Kutupalong settlement. The site was designed in a way to limit the impact on the environment, with the minimum number of trees being cut within the rubber plantation. The trees provide some shaded areas to protect refugees from the sun, and for some space between the tents and shelters.



Newly arrived refugees at the Transit Centre in Kutupalong.
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Since its establishment, thousands of refugees transited through the facility. Upon their arrival, the heads of families are registered, and all refugees, including children, women at risk, and the elderly, are provided with water, hot meals, dry foods, blankets, and clothes.

Refugees with specific needs are identified and referred accordingly to receive specialized support. A child friendly space is also available for children to play. Newly arrived refugees generally stay for a maximum of 7 days before being relocated to Kutupalong with the support of UNHCR and partners, including BDRCS and IOM.

With time, the TC has become a multi-purpose facility. Following the outbreak of the diphtheria among refugees, UNHCR immediately made part of the Rubber Plantation TC available to serve as a treatment and isolation facility for patients under MSF management. The TC is also one of the eight locations where core relief items (CRI), hygiene kits and compressed rice husks (CRHs) - an eco-friendly fuel alternative to firewood - are being distributed to refugees. Ahead of the monsoon seasons, discussions are ongoing on how the space in the TC could be used in hosting refugees at risk of floods and landslides.

In the Transit Center, UNHCR works with the following partners: Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (**RRRC**), **UNHCR**, Action Contre la Faim (**ACF**), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (**BDRCS**), Handicap International (**HI**), International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**), International Federation of the Red Cross (**IFRC**), International Organization for Migration (**IOM**), Médecins Sans Frontières (**MSF**), **Oxfam**, Save the Children (**SCI**), Technical Assistance International (**TAI**) Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (**TIKA**).

Key facts and figures



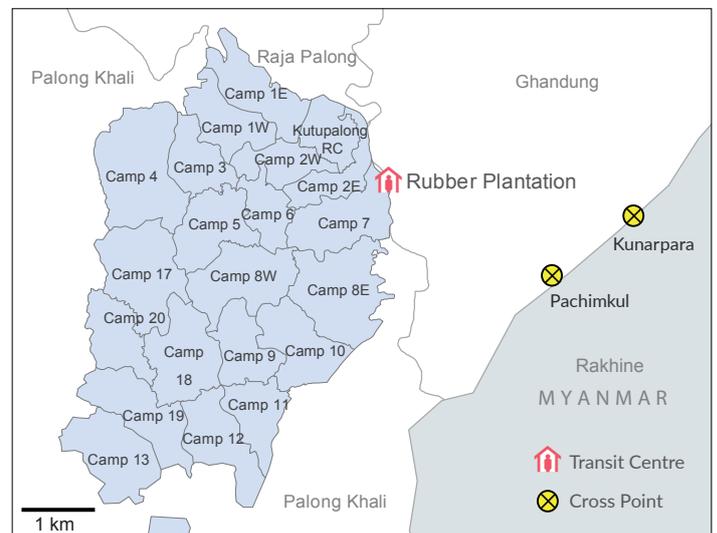
Established: 18 October 2017



Capacity: 810 refugees / 162 families
(Maximum emergency capacity = 1,620 persons)



Area: 47,000 m² / 11.7 acres



The Transit Centre in Kutupalong, where newly arrived refugees can access life-saving assistance prior to their relocation to Kutupalong settlement. ©UNHCR/Dalal Alsharhan

Working in partnership

In Bangladesh, UNHCR works in close collaboration with the government and humanitarian actors to coordinate the response. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) are UNHCR's main government counterparts, in addition to Camp-in-Charge officials (CiCs) overseeing refugee settlements in the Cox's Bazar District.

UNHCR coordinates its interventions with humanitarian actors under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), of which UNHCR co-chairs the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. UNHCR leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads the Protection Working Group of the ISCG, together with the RRRRC.

To implement its response, UNHCR works closely with a 26 partners, both international and national actors:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ACTED** (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation** | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **MDMR** (Ministry of Disaster Management) | **NGOF** (Ngo Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation) | **WFP** (World Food Programme)

Local sourcing of goods and services is a priority for UNHCR.

Supporting the response

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous, and continuous support from the international community is critical to assist Bangladesh in the humanitarian response to the refugee situation. UNHCR has called for support for refugees and host communities, as well as sustained political efforts to work towards a solution for the situation. A Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was launched in March 2018 calling for USD 951 million for humanitarian actors to continue delivering lifesaving assistance until the end of the year. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8 million as part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018 to enable the organization to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees as they prepare to face a harsh monsoon and cyclone season.

Acknowledgement

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