

Bangladesh

1 - 31 October 2019

Rain in early October displaced 228 people. The **Southwest monsoon season has ended**, the national meteorological department announced in October.

UNHCR started new **host community projects** for vulnerable local families, including **steel-framed shelters and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) stoves and refills for 20,000 people.**

Over **762,600** Rohingya have now **received identity documents** under the Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR Joint Registration process.

KEY INDICATORS

744,400* (as of 30 September 2019)

Fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since September 2017.

*Some **914,998** refugees from Myanmar currently reside in Bangladesh in total.

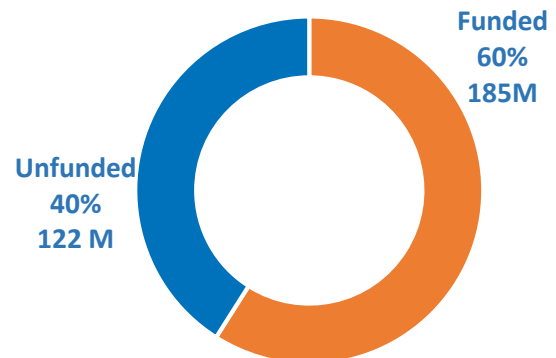
762,633

Registered under the Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR process and provided with identity documents.

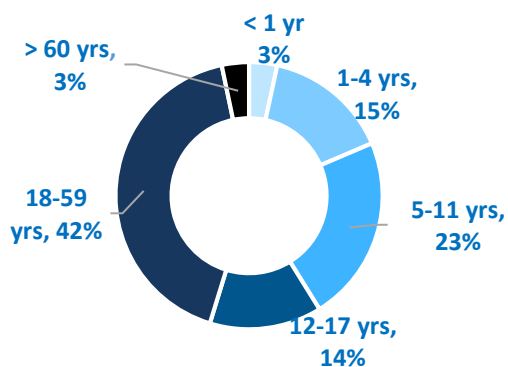
FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019)

USD 307.6 M

requested for Bangladesh

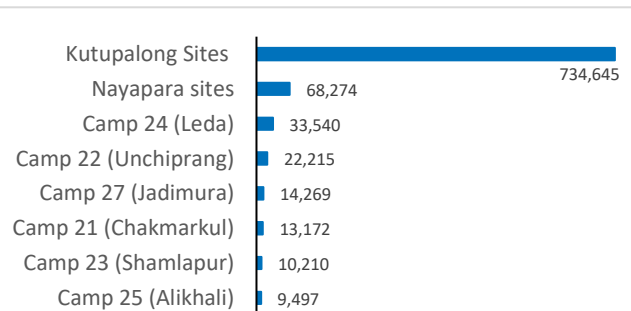


AGE BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Key settlements



***Kutupalong Sites** includes Camp 10, Camp 11, Camp 12, Camp 13, Camp 14, Camp 15, Camp 16, Camp 17, Camp 18, Camp 19, Camp 1E, Camp 1W, Camp 20, Camp 20 Extension, Camp 2E, Camp 2W, Camp 3, Camp 4, Camp 4 Extension, Camp 5, Camp 6, Camp 7, Camp 8E, Camp 8W, Camp 9 Kutupalong RC and **Nayapara sites** includes Camp 26 and Nayapara RC

Operational Context

- The Bangladesh Meteorological Department announced that the monsoon had ended during mid-October. Rains in October affected a small number of refugees in settlements in Cox's Bazar. While the monsoon season has ended, there remains a risk of cyclones, particularly during late October and November.
- As of 31 October, 762,633 Rohingya were registered under the Joint Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR registration process. The entire Rohingya population is expected to be registered by the end of 2019.



The end of the monsoon has come and soon the camps will be dry and cooler as winter descends on Cox's Bazar in the months of November/December, reducing night-time temperatures to an average of around 12 degrees.

Photo: ©UNHCR/Donovan

Achievements

MONSOON EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Monsoon has withdrawn signaling an end to continual heavy rains in Cox's Bazar

- Despite the end of seasonal monsoon rains, UNHCR continues to work on disaster risk reduction, further building resilience of refugee communities in camps, particularly in hazard-prone areas through shelter assistance, site planning and infrastructural improvements.
- The response to monsoon incidents in the camps in Cox's Bazar in 2019 was increasingly led by refugees using their capacities, knowledge, skills. Refugees were first responders in many cases and took immediate actions to save lives. From the start of the monsoon in 2019 until the end of October, an estimated 363 rain, wind, landslide and other incidents occurred in UNHCR-managed camps, directly affecting 9,693 refugee families (39,683 individuals). A total of 703 shelters were completely destroyed in UNHCR-managed camps, while another 4,059 sustained partial damage. Some 2,292 refugee families were temporarily relocated due to the monsoon and bamboo, plastic sheeting and other items distributed to repair shelters.
- Resilience to the monsoon was strengthened by UNHCR through comprehensive upgrades and repairs of essential communal infrastructure in camps, including access roads, bridges and pathways, retaining structures and drainage. Communal infrastructure offered vital shelter for temporary relocations when shelters were damaged and camps were flooded.
- UNHCR supported refugee community mobilization and capacity-building, mass information dissemination and awareness raising. UNHCR also pre-positioned and distributed shelter materials and core relief items,

relocated affected families and provided support to highly vulnerable refugees. Inter-sectoral coordination and rapid response capacity have been reinforced through deployment of multi-functional Emergency Response Teams.



PROTECTION

On-site technical assessments to take place on Bhasan Char

- There has been ongoing discussion between the government and UN agencies, following a government proposal to relocate some refugees to Bhasan Char. The longstanding position of the UN is that any relocation to Bhasan Char must be on a voluntary basis. To make a decision, refugees need to receive full information regarding safety issues and living conditions on Bhasan Char. Their views must be sought and their concerns addressed as part of consultative process between the Government and the refugee community. UNHCR is ready to support and facilitate this process.
- The UN has continuously emphasised the importance of completing independent and thorough technical and protection assessments focusing on such issues as cyclone and flooding risks and other natural hazards, as well as the adequacy of water resources, before any relocations take place. Critical protection and operational issues must be considered before any relocations take place, including refugee's access to basic rights and services, justice and governance, education and livelihoods opportunities, and their ability to move within Bhasan Char and to and from the mainland.

Civil status documentation situation for Rohingya refugees improving

- The Government of Bangladesh has helped to boost civil documentation for refugees who arrived from August 2017 onwards by agreeing to ensure that marriages and divorces that are registered will be documented and certificates will be issued for refugees to demonstrate their current civil status. This is an important step in the protection of family and individual rights and will ensure that newly-formed families are able to remain united during any relocations undertaken within Bangladesh, or during any voluntary returns undertaken by refugees to Myanmar.
- UNHCR has supported the printing of marriage and divorce registration forms which will be used to register marriages and divorces. After registration of the marriage or divorce, each party will get an original signed and sealed copy of the registration form. One original copy will be kept at the office of the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) for future reference. This will strengthen civil documentation among the Rohingya community as previously they did not receive an original document attested by the CiC.
- Civil documentation is a key element of protection and the new impetus on registration will contribute to upholding family rights, particularly for women aiming to claim and establish any rights associated with the marriage. Moreover, child marriage will be better addressed through age verification before registration using the forms. The documentation will also support clarification of persons' status during the registration process being undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR.

Over 762,600 Rohingya registered under Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR Joint Registration Process

- More than 762,600 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have so far been registered in the Joint Registration exercise by the Bangladesh authorities and UNHCR. The system operating at 7 sites currently, uses a UNHCR Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) that captures biometric data, including fingerprints and iris scans, which secure each refugee's unique identity as well as other important information such as family links. The identification document provides protection to refugees and the data from the exercise

helps Bangladesh and humanitarian partners better understand the population and their needs. The entire Rohingya population is expected to be registered by the end of 2019. As the process nears completion, there will be a scaling down of the number of registration sites and efforts to ensure everyone has the opportunity to register through the joint registration process.

Community Based Protection training and experience sharing in Cox's Bazar

- To bring on-the-ground actors in Cox's Bazar together to share learning experiences on Community Based Protection (CBP), UNHCR Bangladesh organised a practitioners' workshop for partners from 20 to 22 October, in coordination with UNHCR's Global Learning and Development Centre (GLDC) and UNHCR's Division of International Protection (DIP).



- The workshop aimed to strengthen all-round understanding of CBP with partners and harmonise actions in the Rohingya refugee response. The extensive experience of BBC Media Action was also shared in a presentation on their activities in raising refugee voices and promoting accountability.
- The participating partners ranged from those working directly on CBP to agencies involved in legal interventions, food security, child protection, education and services for persons with disabilities. It is hoped that the CBP Workshop for Partners will enable actors to strengthen community engagement in the field and support refugee participation in decision making and solutions.

SUPPORT TO THE HOST COMMUNITY

- UNHCR has prioritised host community support as a vital protection element of the refugee response. Assistance to host communities can help reduce financial stress induced by the presence of large refugee settlements and ease tensions that may arise because of actual or perceived adverse economic effects, as well as generate goodwill which can help improve protection conditions for everyone. Below a number of specific activities in support of host communities are outlined.

Assisting host communities near refugee settlements with LPG

- UNHCR has started a targeted distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), in parallel with ongoing distribution of LPG to refugees. UNHCR will supply 20,000 pre-identified host community households with stoves, gas bottles and 6 refills of fuel. A vulnerability assessment was conducted to identify the most vulnerable households, including families with disabilities and elderly. Some 59.5% of the host community cook with firewood and, consequently, LPG distribution is expected contribute to an improvement in



Distribution of LPG support to local families in Cox's Bazar host communities living adjacent to refugee settlements. Photo: UNHCR

health for those benefiting. Some 1,387 households have already been reached with the initiative, all within a 5 km radius of refugee camp boundaries, near the southern camps in Teknaf. UNHCR is working to expand the distribution to Camp 21 (Chakmarkul) and Kutupalong refugee settlement. The new supply infrastructure needed for these distributions will also provide host community members with opportunities for employment.

Responding to needs of ultra-poor in the host community near refugee settlements

- UNHCR is providing support to some of Cox’s Bazar poorest families. Before the Rohingya refugee influx, households in the areas close-by already had poor and borderline food consumption patterns - much worse than the national average. This high level of economic vulnerability within the host communities in Cox’s Bazar was further accentuated by the incoming refugees who competed with the poorest families in the district for basic necessities.
- The project, in partnership with the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, aims to strengthen livelihoods and self-reliance support to the host community and help mitigate tensions and prevent conflict that can arise between the competing needs of the refugees and the local population.
- Since April 2018, UNHCR-BRAC supported 2,028 female-headed and poor households as part of the ultra-poor graduation program in Teknaf and Ukhiya upazillas in Cox’s Bazar with support including:



Host community households in Cox’s Bazar were supported with vegetable seeds, saplings, fertiliser, spraying machine, and other assets. *UNHCR/TUP*

- **Asset transfer as grants:** One-time grants of productive assets, such as livestock or goods for small trade to help jumpstart livelihoods through micro-enterprise development.
- **Partial grant with interest-free loan:** Capital for micro-enterprise development in the form of a partial grant and an interest-free loan.
- **Small Business Enterprise development training:** Participants received classroom-based training to support enterprise building and assets.
- **Practical coaching through regular group and home visits:** Practical coaching and monitoring by project staff. A strong focus was given to improve skills, providing awareness on health and social environment, and helping build confidence.
- **Healthcare and WASH service:** Participants were supported to access health care services and financial support for treatment and related costs, as well as household latrine support.
- **Social integration through community mobilisation:** Village committees were established to help to promote social inclusion, and the participants were linked with other BRAC services, government, and other organisations’ initiatives.
- **Access to financial service:** Participants were supported to open an account for availing financial services and access to savings and other financial support. Developing a savings habit is a key element in promoting resilience to shocks, and in creating pathways toward sustainable graduation.

	Type of support provided	# of Host Community Households
1.	On-farm agriculture	45
2.	Goat Rearing	100
3.	Beef Fattening	470
4.	Dairy Cow	1,155
5.	Small Business	258
Total		2,028

Steel-framed transitional housing pilot launched for host community in Teknaf

- In addition to livelihoods, LPG and other support for the host community in Cox's Bazar, UNHCR launched a housing project for host community in October
- UNHCR and partners identified



21 of the most vulnerable host community households living adjacent to refugees camps in Nayapara and Jadimura of Hnila Union in Cox's Bazar. These households were sharing the same area or their homestead with Rohingya families. As a recognition of their support to refugees, UNHCR provided a Transitional Housing unit designed by UNHCR/BRAC architects. This is a modular frame house which is easy to erect and dismantle, consisting of durable and recyclable steel which can sustain a high wind load. These steel houses have also been piloted in the Rohingya camps. The housing unit is constructed on the cement-concrete floor. It is a single-story housing unit for a standard size family. For roofing and lateral covering corrugated iron sheets were used. Latrine and washing facilities will also be provided when available.

Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 33 partners:

MDMR (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief) | Action Aid Bangladesh | ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | BNWLA (Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association) | Bangladesh Red Crescent Society | BRAC (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | Caritas Bangladesh | Center for Natural Resource Studies | CODEC (Community Development Centre) | COAST (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | Danish Refugee Council | FH Association (Food for the Hungry) | GK (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | Handicap International | Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation | Light House | Oxfam GB | Relief International | Mukti Cox's Bazar | NGO Forum for Public Health | RTMI (Research, Training and Management International) | Save the Children International | World Vision | Solidarites International | Terre des Hommes | TAI (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council) | WFP (World Food Programme) | UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) | IOM (International Organization for Migration) | BLAST (Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust) | Rights Jessore

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 3,000 volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground. UNHCR

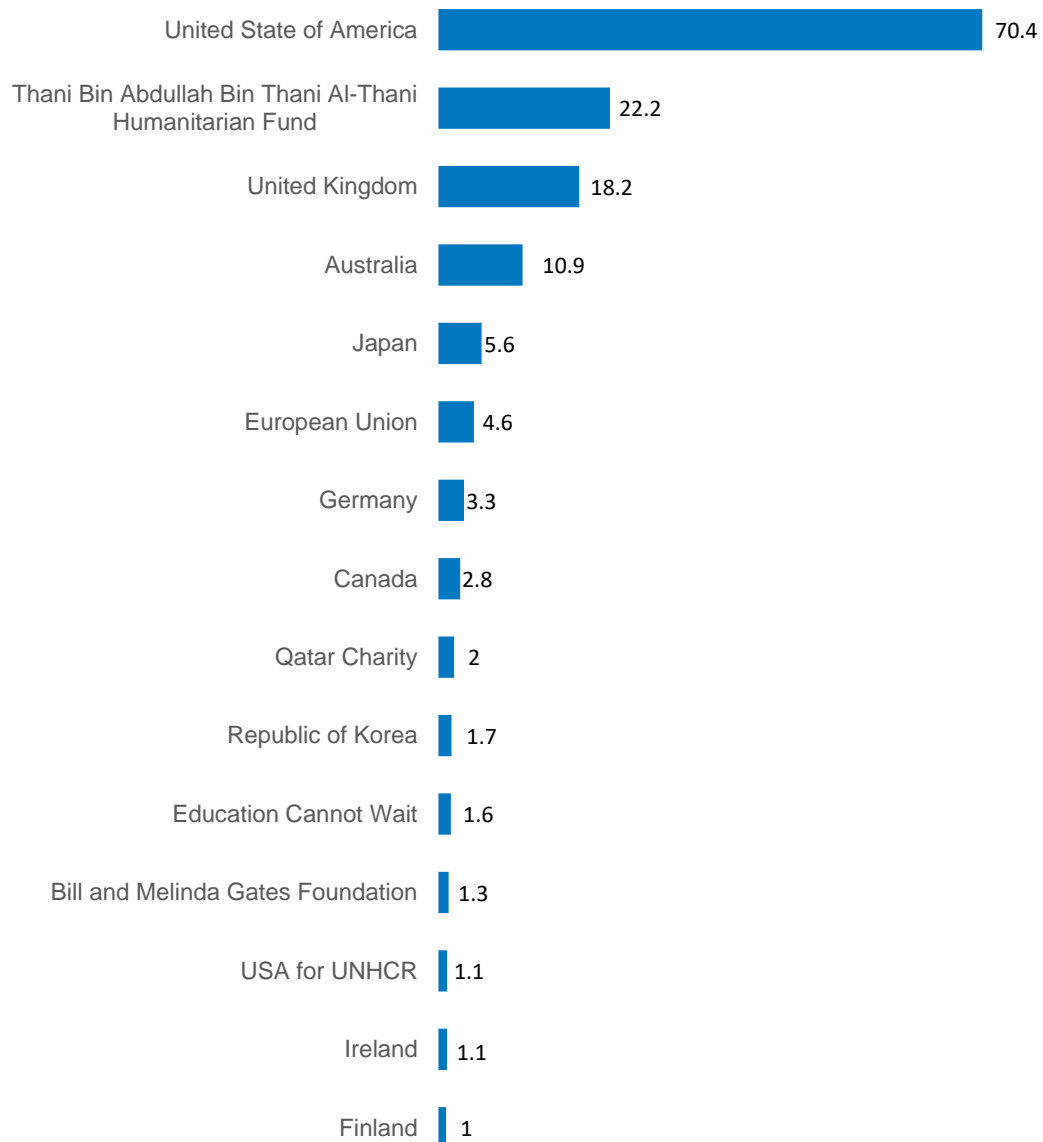
and partners have trained and work with safety unit volunteers (SUVs) who support the emergency response, community outreach members who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, community health workers who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the refugee response.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 173 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (above USD 1 million)



External / Donors Relations

UNHCR's humanitarian response in Bangladesh is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR Bangladesh operations.

In 2018 and 2019, support has been received from the people and governments of:

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

UNHCR is sincerely grateful for the additional support received from many individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide including Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Education Cannot Wait, Kuwait Finance House, Qatar Charity, and Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al Thani Humanitarian Fund.

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