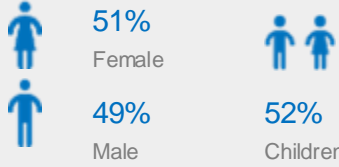




POPULATION

1,003,394 # of registered refugees

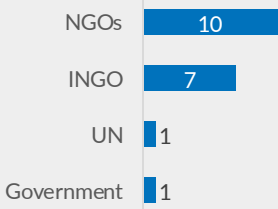
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 30 September 2024

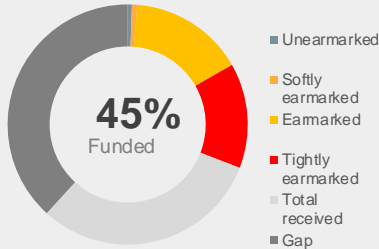
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



FUNDING

275 M Funding for 2024 operations



as of 30 September 2024

HISTORY

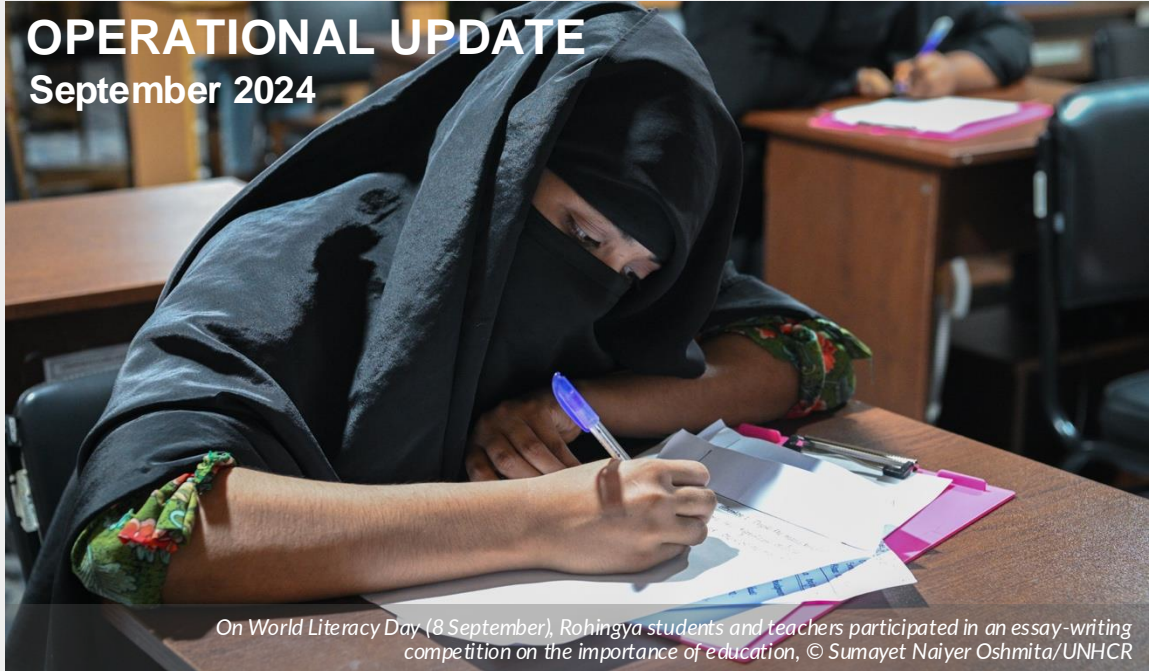
UNHCR has been a friend of Bangladesh since 1971, providing life-saving aid to some 10 million refugees forced to flee during the Liberation War.

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

September 2024



On World Literacy Day (8 September), Rohingya students and teachers participated in an essay-writing competition on the importance of education, © Sumayet Naiyer Oshmita/UNHCR

KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 30 September, the 2024 JRP was [53 per cent funded](#), with USD 455.7 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 per cent funded](#) with USD 578 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- ROHINGYA SPOTLIGHT AT THE 79th UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** In his [speech](#) to the UNGA on 27 September, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor (CA) of Bangladesh's Interim Government reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to supporting the Rohingya. At the Rohingya high-level side event, the CA made [three proposals](#): (1) for a UN-led all-stakeholder international conference on the Rohingya crisis to be urgently convened to review the situation and explore solutions; (2) for the strengthening of the JRP to reverse the decline in funding; (3) and for the international community to fully support mechanisms for justice and accountability in addressing the crimes committed against the Rohingya.
- ONE MILLION MARK:** In [September 2024](#), the number of displaced Rohingya registered in the Cox's Bazar camps and on the island of Bhasan Char surpassed one million, according to UNHCR data. Some 1,003,394 refugees (comprising 203,572 households) are now registered in the joint UNHCR-Government of Bangladesh database – a total population increase of 3.9 per cent, or 37,927 individuals since [September 2023](#). (This figure does not include Myanmar new arrivals seeking refuge in Bangladesh over the past year, as they are not registered.)
- MYANMAR NEW ARRIVALS:** On 30 September, the CA's office gave verbal approval for a 'headcount' of new arrivals to enable distribution of minimum life-saving assistance, namely food, health, nutrition, and basic household items. UNHCR will steer, with IOM, WFP, UNICEF and WHO providing key emergency services. As registration for newly arrived refugees is currently not authorized, UNHCR continues advocacy for full biometric registration and calls for non-refoulement and regulated access to safety for civilians fleeing Myanmar, in line with international frameworks. Seeking asylum is a human right and every person has the right to apply for asylum if they are fleeing conflict or persecution.
- ONWARDS MOVEMENTS & HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** As of 30 September 2024, 5,300 Rohingya individuals have attempted dangerous boat journeys departing from Myanmar or Bangladesh in search of protection, a 197 per cent rise from 2023. Of them, 190 people were reported deceased or missing. [Read UNHCR's report on onward movements.](#) In Cox's Bazar, from July to September 2024, 86 cases of human trafficking were reported by partners of the Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG), co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR. With the approach of sailing season, the group is developing updated key messages on onward movements and anti-trafficking posters that meaningfully address the current context and raise awareness of available services for victims. From January to September, ATWG partners have identified, referred and assisted 231 victims of trafficking. [Read the ATWG Q3 report.](#)

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, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, 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.

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 External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar;
 Romain Descloux, descloux@unhcr.org,
 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- PRODUCTION CENTRES:** Seven production centres in Cox's Bazar camps employed 728 Rohingya women volunteers, compared to 598 the previous month. At the five FR/UNIQLQ production centres, the introduction of a piece rate payment structure on a pilot basis has increased monthly production rates of female underwear (up by 30 per cent compared to July) and reusable pads (up by 33 per cent) as well as payments to the volunteers (from BDT 4,000 per month to BDT 4,500 on average).
- DENGUE OUTBREAK:** Dengue cases have surged in the camps since late July, escalating sharply in August with 2,539 cases reported— three times the number recorded in July. The upward trend continued into September, with 3,745 cases reported, taking the total number of cases reported in 2024 to 9,171. Prevention and response measures include dissemination of key messages on dengue prevention through community health workers that focus on household level destruction of mosquito breeding sites, use of mosquito nets and protective clothing, and the need to seeking care when sick; ensuring stocks of necessary supplies and medicines for treatment of moderate and severe cases at all UNHCR-supported clinics; and weekly block cleaning campaigns to control mosquito breeding, particularly in hotspot areas. There is an urgent need to introduce larvicide to further reduce dengue cases.
- MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT (MHPSS):** On 10 September, UNHCR and partners marked World Suicide Prevention Day in camps with awareness activities. Over the past year, UNHCR has developed contextualized information materials on suicide prevention to raise awareness among the community, NGOs, and government staff. On 30 September, MSF discontinued its mental health services to refugees at the Transit Centre and handed over all MHPSS activities to UNHCR-partner Gonoshasthaya Kendra to ensure service continuation. Meanwhile, UNHCR trained 135-Armed Police Battalion (APBn) officers on useful tools and strategies for self-care and coping with stress.
- BAMBOO SUPPLIES:** Deliveries of bamboo continued to fall short of needs. To date, suppliers have delivered 170,156 *borak* pieces (+7.5 per cent from previous month, 42.5 per cent of the annual target) and 1,705,440 *muli* pieces (+14 per cent from previous month, 56.5 per cent of the annual target). 6,222 households (including 825 extremely vulnerable households) received shelter repair materials in September, while 5,837 eligible households are pending assistance due to the shortage of *muli*. (*Borak* and *muli* are two kinds of bamboo).
- RECORD RAINFALL & EMERGENCY INCIDENTS:** Heavy rainfall hit Cox's Bazar, with an unprecedented 501 mm recorded in a 24-hour period from 12 to 13 September, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department. In UNHCR-managed camps, 111 incidents were reported over the month, most related to heavy rain, flooding, waterlogging, and landslides caused by significant soil erosion. In the district, six people were [reported](#) killed in two landslide incidents, including three Rohingya residents of Camp 14. There is currently limited land available in the camps for relocations. In Cox's Bazar town, UNHCR's sub-office was flooded for the fifth time this year, and staff were advised to work from home on 15 and 16 September. 90 per cent of the district was [reported](#) to be waterlogged, with around 100 villages submerged.
- MISSION REPORT:** Following a pause in missions in August, UNHCR welcomed nine visits from donors/partners to Cox's Bazar camps in September, including the Chairman and Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the acting Mission Director of USAID, and delegations from New Zealand, Sweden and Ireland.
- FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 30 September, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 45 per cent funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. A new contribution was received from Saudi Arabia.

IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- What happened when UNHCR and IOM introduced LPG to the camps in 2018 as a cleaner alternative to cooking with firewood? [Watch the video to find out.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 21 [Facebook](#) posts, 27 [tweets](#) and 19 [Instagram](#) posts in September. Posts included a [video message](#) of support from Rohingya refugees to the Refugee Paralympics Team in Paris, a [spotlight](#) on the complex humanitarian situation in Myanmar, and a [close up](#) look at cyclone preparedness activities in the camps, and more.

