UNHCR Bangladesh

The UN Refugee Agency

POPULATION

1,148,529 # of registered refugees

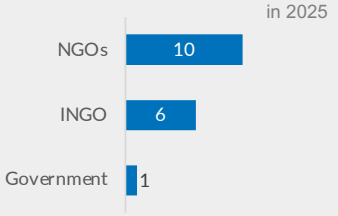
96.6% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.4% on the island of Bhasan Char

51% Female
49% Male
52% Children

as of 31 July 2025

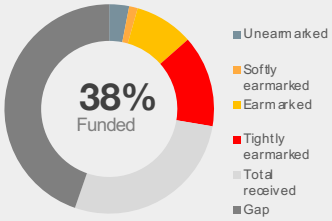
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025



FUNDING

255.5 M Funding for 2025 operations



as of 31 July 2025

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

July 2025

A glimpse of the hustle and bustle of life in the Cox's Bazar camps. © UNHCR

KEY UPDATES

- REPRIORITIZED 2025 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP): Amidst a global decline in humanitarian funding, the reprioritized 2025 Joint Response Plan was launched in Dhaka on 15 July, outlining the minimum package of life-saving services and assistance needed to protect and support Rohingya refugees. The reprioritized plan appeals for USD 455.6 million to fund critical and life-saving activities, categorized as Priority 1, such as food assistance, cooking gas, stipends for teachers, critical hygiene items, and emergency health. This represents half the USD 934.5 million initially requested in March for the full 2025-26 JRP, which includes activities now categorized as Priority 2 and 3. As of 21 July, about 80 per cent of P1 funding has been received. Critical gaps include cooking gas, food assistance and soap. Without fresh funding, reductions in assistance may be needed, causing significant hardship. In 2024, the JRP was 68.2% funded, with USD 581.7 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million, according to the online tracker. *Read the reprioritized 2025 Joint Response Plan*.

- FLASH APPEAL FOR NEW ARRIVALS: A flash appeal for new refugee arrivals was also launched on 15 July, requesting USD 84 million to meet the lifesaving and critical needs of an estimated 150,000 newly arrived Rohingya. 50,000 new arrivals were already accounted for in the planning figures for the initial 2025-26 JRP, but numbers have continued to increase. As of 31 July, 124,128 individuals (32,412 families) have been identified in the joint biometrics identification exercise (BIE) for new arrivals and received family assistance cards. ***Note:*** *Unlike formal refugee registration, this process does not result in the issuance of individual refugee identity documents, though it allows access to assistance on par with other refugees in the camps.* *View BIE dashboard*.

- TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: On 20–21 July, UNHCR launched the pilot phase of the 2025 training initiative for the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), focusing on refugee protection and community outreach. The programme consists of six training batches from three APBn battalions, reaching 162 participants. This two-day training aims to strengthen operational collaboration between UNHCR and APBn by fostering dialogue on refugee protection principles and addressing security-related challenges within the camps. Sessions will continue to be jointly facilitated by UNHCR and IOM, with active participation from APBn and RRRC representatives.

- COMPLAINTS & FEEDBACK: 36,108 tickets were recorded through complaints and feedback channels, including help desks, emails, letters, and the 24-hour UNHCR Helpline. A total of 200,325 tickets were recorded in 2025, a quarter of which (49,998 tickets) were related to protection concerns. In July, the closure rate of protection-related tickets reached 90 per cent.

- HOUSING, LAND & PROPERTY (HPL) UPDATE: As of 30 June 2025, 2,809 HLP cases were recorded across 33 Rohingya camps. Cases include rental disputes, eviction threats, land and shelter claims, relocation, as well as restricted access to basic services such as pathways, latrines, and water points. Access to HLP rights remains a challenge for all Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, but newly arrived refugees are the most affected. *Read the HLP report.* The HLP Working Group works to safeguard HLP rights through guiding strategic interventions, conducting assessments, and advancing policy and advocacy efforts.

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, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, 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, including Fast Retailing (UNIQLO), Join Together Society (JTS), King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), Muslim World League, Ousri Household, SONY, and private donors in Germany and the Middle East.

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- EDUCATION UPDATE: In July, UNHCR and partners continued to provide education services to 7,772 Rohingya students (3,580 girls) enrolled in the English language-based Pearson curriculum in the two registered camps of Kutupalong and Nayapara. To build teaching capacity, teacher trainings in English, science, global citizenship were conducted for 164 teachers, emphasizing subject content, classroom pedagogy, communication and classroom management skills. Meanwhile, due to funding constraints, UNICEF-supported learning centres for early childhood education and Grades 1-4 remained closed.

- LIVELIHOODS ON BHASAN CHAR: In July, 125 households on Bhasan Char sold 8.2 tons of vegetables, earning an average of BDT 2,870 (USD 22) each—up from BDT 1,404 (USD 11) in June—despite fewer households able to go to the market (compared to 346 households in June). The drop in sellers was due to heavy monsoon rains, but higher vegetable prices allowed households to double their income. Sales of vegetable saplings also declined due to heavy rains, with nine vegetable farmers bringing in about one third of their previous month's sales (average earning of BDT 3,277 (USD 27) vs BDT 9,397 (USD 75) per household). After several months of growing fish stocks, aquaculture farmers sold 13.2 tons of fish, earning an average of BDT 2,952 (USD 24). Meanwhile, 236 Rohingya female artisans engaged by partner NGO Forum produced 1,427 handicrafts, and product sales in July generated BDT 301,668 (USD 2,510)—nearly triple the previous month's total.

- SAFETY ASSESSMENT & DROWNING PREVENTION: A safety assessment of 822 bridges across 16 UNHCR-managed camps identified 49 bridges at critical risk and 65 at high risk. Shelter partners were advised to implement urgent mitigation measures, and 23 bridges were recommended for dismantling. To address the high number of drowning incidents affecting refugees in the Cox's Bazar camps each year—11 recorded in 2025, leading to five deaths, and 13 incidents leading to 6 deaths in 2024—an information campaign reached 69,262 refugees through audio messages and interactive discussions focused on drowning prevention.

- DENGUE PREVENTION: To combat the yearly rise in dengue cases during the rainy season, UNHCR and WASH partners launched monthly 'seek and destroy' campaigns in five UNHCR-managed camps to eliminate mosquito breeding sites such as standing water, uncovered water containers, blocked drains, and waterlogged areas. These efforts are supported by ongoing awareness campaigns on prevention—such as mosquito net use—and recognition of dengue symptoms. Strong coordination with site management partners, WASH committees, facility user groups, *majhis*, and community volunteers has been key to the campaigns' effectiveness. In July, 139 dengue cases were reported in camps where UNHCR serves as WASH focal, representing approximately 3 per cent of total cases in July. *Read the WASH Sector's 'Guidance note on dengue prevention'.*

- NUTRITION UPDATE: Two major nutrition campaigns took place from 13–17 July. In Cox's Bazar, over 34,200 children aged 6–59 months received Vitamin A capsules, achieving 100% coverage. On Bhasan Char, more than 3,190 children aged 24–59 months received deworming tablets, reaching 90% coverage, with effective coverage exceeding 100% when including those treated in the previous three months. Meanwhile, a strategic workshop on 2026 Nutrition Sector priorities concluded that at least four facilities will close, and activities such as cooking demonstrations, growth monitoring, and psychosocial support will be deprioritized.

- MISSION REPORT: UNHCR welcomed seven visits from donors/partners in July, for a total of 78 missions in 2025. High-level visitors included the French Special Envoy for Burma, and delegations from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the European Union, and the Japanese International Development Agency.

- FUNDING UPDATE: As of 31 July, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 38% funded, with USD 85.4 million received against an operating plan of USD 255.5 million. New contributions were received from SONY and the USA.

IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT…"

- ***"Bibia Collection: Style with a story."*** *UNHCR partner NGO Forum launched social media channels for the Bibia Collection, a line of handicrafts and fashion items produced by Rohingya refugees and local artisans in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. Bibia products include backpacks, tote bags, coin pouches, cushion covers and more, showcasing Rohingya heritage and skills. View Bibia Collection on Facebook, Instagram and X.*

- UNHCR Bangladesh published 23 Facebook posts, 46 tweets and 22 Instagram posts in July.

Rohingya footballers from camp sent their best wishes to the the Paris Saint-Germain football club for the FIFA World Cup. Watch the video.

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