

BANGLADESH

20 October 2017

Since 25th August 2017, a **new outburst of violence** in Rakhine State in Western Myanmar triggered the largest ever influx of refugees in Bangladesh.

Thousands of refugees in dire conditions were recently **stranded at the border** between Myanmar and Bangladesh albeit they have now been able to cross the border.

UNHCR is supporting the Bangladesh authorities in responding to the emergency and continues to scale up its activities **to reach all refugees** with protection and assistance.

POPULATION FIGURES

582,000* Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

307,500 estimated refugee population before this influx

889,500 estimated total refugee population

STAFFING

182 Staff now present in the operation compared to 49 prior to the crisis.

* ISCG figures as of 18th of October 2017

FUNDING

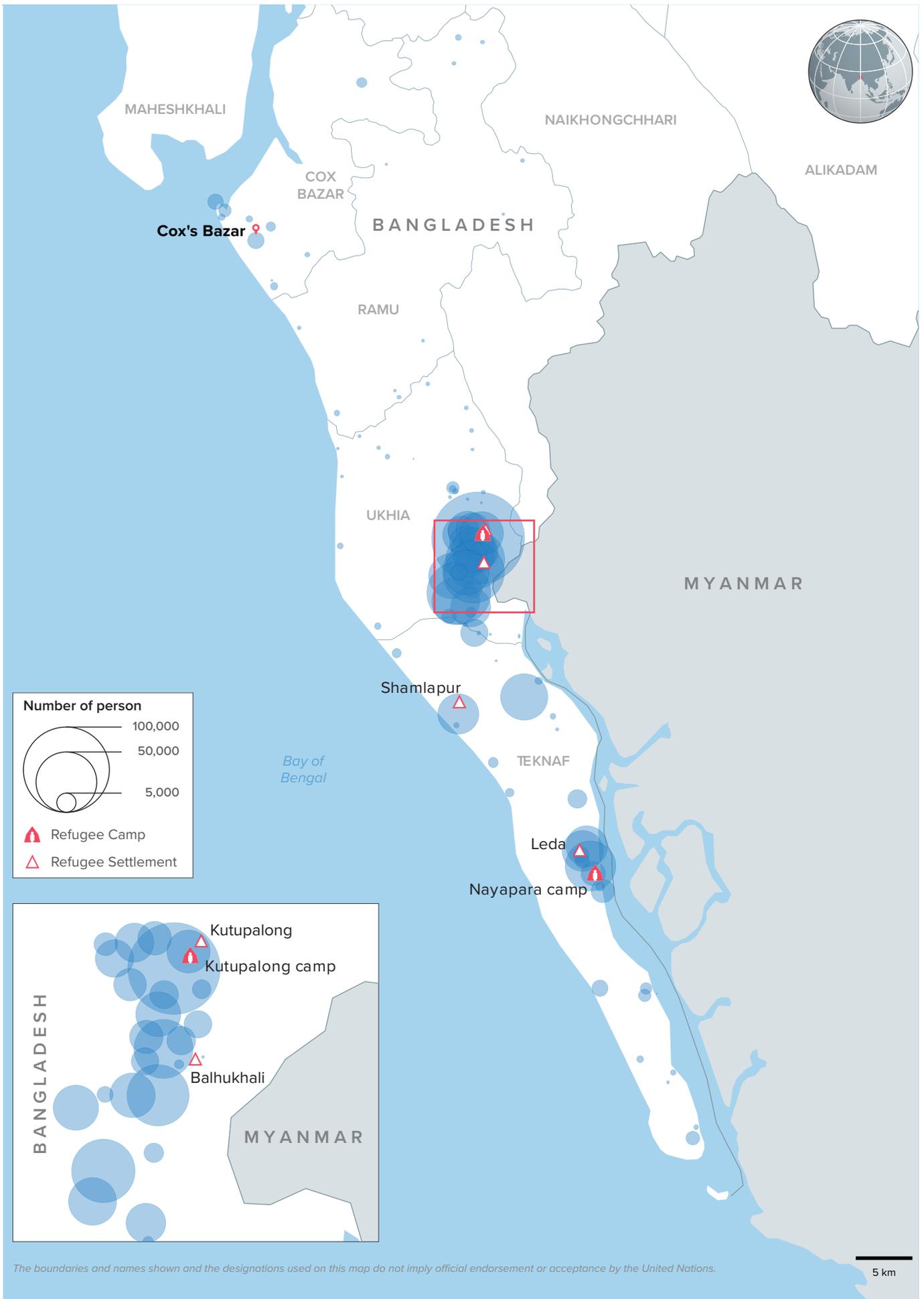
USD 83.7 M requested for UNHCR's emergency response in Bangladesh.

USD 30.5 M
Received

USD 53.2M
Remaining
funding needed



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Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, a mass influx of Rohingya refugees from northern Rakhine State in Myanmar to Bangladesh began after violence erupted in the region following an attack on Myanmar's security forces.

As of 17 October 2017, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) reported that an estimated 582,000 refugees had arrived in the Teknaf and Ukhia districts, in the South of Bangladesh, taking shelter in makeshift settlements. This is in addition to an estimated 307,500 refugees from Myanmar that were already living in Bangladesh. This brings the total number of refugees to approximately 889,500 individuals, putting an even greater strain on an already highly densely populated region of Bangladesh.

Thousands of refugees have crossed the Myanmar/Bangladesh border near the Anjuman Para, in Ukhia district. This includes children, women and the elderly suffering from dehydration and hunger following their long and perilous journey. In coordination with the Bangladesh authorities and its partners, UNHCR is providing basic assistance and protection services in Kutapalong plus border areas as needed.

In close collaboration with other UN agencies and partners present on the ground, UNHCR will continue to scale up its activities to reach the maximum number of refugees, provide them with protection, shelter, health and water and sanitation assistance, support host communities in absorbing these new arrivals and prepare for potential additional influxes.

Operational Highlights



PROTECTION

RRRC-UNHCR Family Counting Exercise

Led by Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), the Family Counting exercise launched on 4 October 2017 and supported by UNHCR, has covered to date over 57,661 families (247,606 individuals) new arrivals. For a video of the Family Counting see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xb3o0un6iLA>. This exercise is in addition to the Ministry of Home Affairs biometric registration exercise. Thus far it has focused on the Kutupalong expansion, which includes the Kutupalong refugee camp, as well as the Kkutupalong and Balukali makeshifts and extensions. It will enable the Government, UNHCR, and other agencies to have a better understanding of the size and breakdown of the population and where they are located. It will also provide a common, unique identifier to help organize and facilitate assistance. It is key to getting the right aid to the right people, not least flag refugees with special protection needs including single mothers with small infants, people with disabilities, unaccompanied children and elderly refugees.

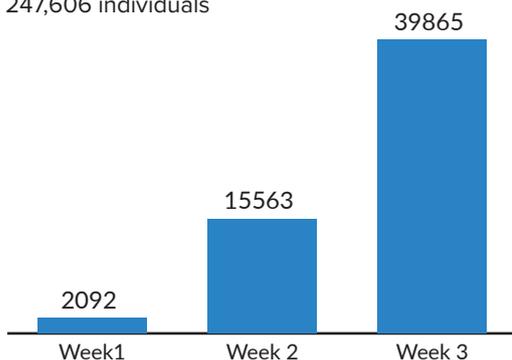
UNHCR supported the RRRC in the design and facilitation of the exercise, including the provision of computers, databases and recruitment and training of 150 enumerators. Enumerators meet families in their shelters and gather basic data on the household including composition, age, sex, date of arrival, and area of origin in Myanmar. This data, including a photo of the family, is uploaded into a mobile application, together with a basic indicator of the family's location based on zones, and the GPS coordinates of the family's shelter. Once counted, families receive a card with the RRRC logo and a unique family identification number. This is vital for ensuring access to assistance and protection from UNHCR and its partners.

*Please note that the figures presented below are **provisional estimates** generated from the data gathered to date, which has covered only a portion of the population targeted by the RRRC. Final results will be shared once the family counting exercise is complete and all data analysed.*

Provisional Findings

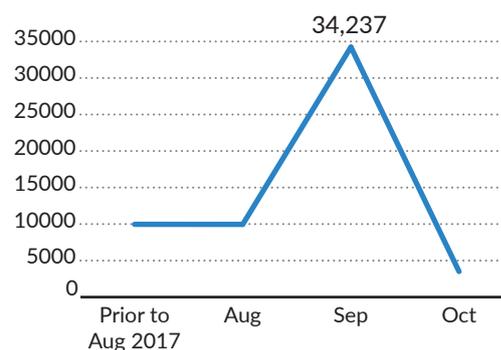
Family counting progress

57,661 families counted with a total of 247,606 individuals



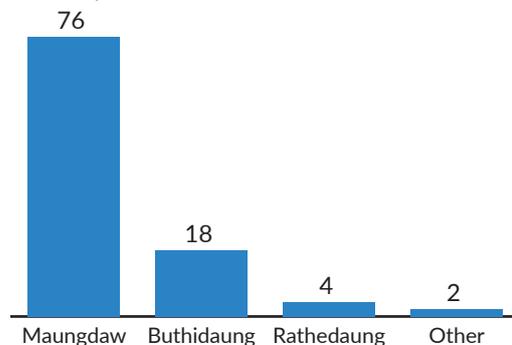
Date of arrival

83% of the counted families arrived between August and October 2017



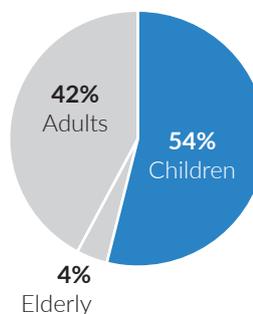
Arrivals by place of origin

76% of the refugees come from Maungdaw Township



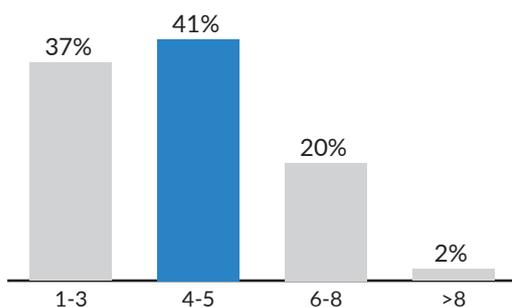
Age distribution

54% of the refugees are under 18 years old



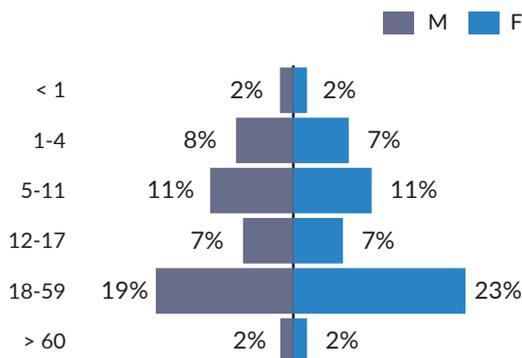
Family size

41% of the families have a standard family size of 5 persons



Demography

52% of the refugees are women



New arrivals stranded on the border

In the last week 7,000 persons crossed the border close to Anjumpara, Ukhia district near Kutupalong, exhausted after walking for days exposed to heavy rain and high temperatures.

UNHCR has established a **transit centre close to Kutupalong to ensure adequate reception of new arrivals as well as those who may arrive in the coming weeks**. The most vulnerable refugees have been taken in at this transit centre under rub halls, quickly assembled tents and school buildings in Kutupalong. Together with MSF, UNHCR field teams set up a second distribution point to cater for the refugees still to come.

Thousands were recently camped near the border, cramped on narrow strips of land under pouring rain making due with the tarps, sleeping mats and blankets. UNHCR and its partners provided them with basic assistance, notably medical screening, healthcare and emergency child protection interventions.

In coordination with the Bangladesh authorities, UNHCR is distributing tokens to refugees still at the border before they are allowed to move forward. This facilitates a more systematic and equitable provision of assistance at the transit site or at the established sites in Kutupalong over the next few days.



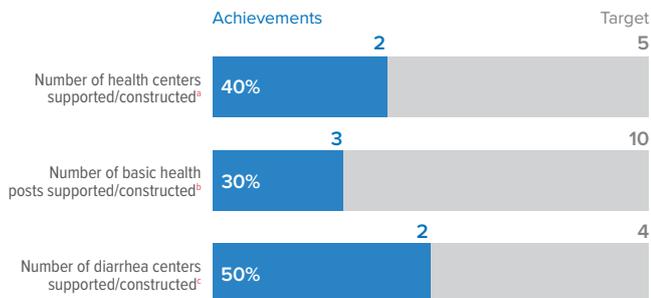
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Multi-sectoral Response



HEALTH

Number of consultations provided: **24,353**

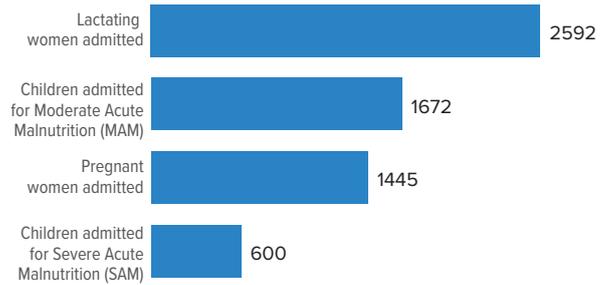


^a1 for 50,000 beneficiaries, ^b1 for 10,000 beneficiaries, ^c20 beds each



NUTRITION

Number of persons admitted for malnutrition treatment



WATER AND SANITATION

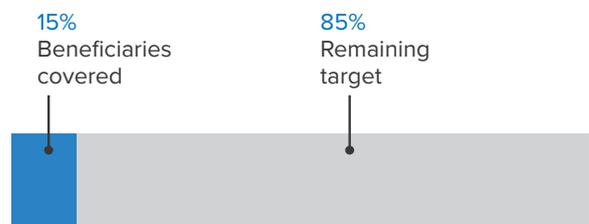
Number of boreholes drilled/operational: **121**

Number of latrines constructed: **756**

Targeted refugees with access to water



Targeted refugees with access to latrines

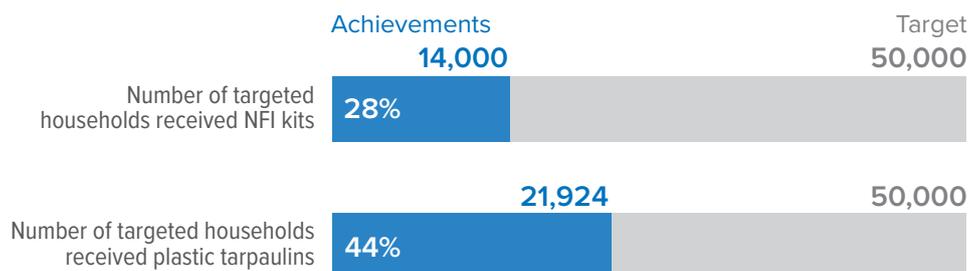


A key constraint in water and sanitation is limited space to build latrines in areas where refugees have settled spontaneously and linked to that, risk associated with proximity to shelter and boreholes



SHELTER AND NFIS

Indicators monitoring



It is important to note all of the above is in coordination and in conjunction with the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)

External / Donors Relations

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.

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LINK

[UNHCR operation page](#)