

BANGLADESH

17 November 2017

Over **600,000 Rohingya refugees** fled Rakhine State in Myanmar, reaching Bangladesh by land, boat, and increasingly, makeshift rafts made of bamboo and jerry cans.

Newly arrived refugees are settling in and around existing camps and among host communities, **stretching already limited resources.**

UNHCR is supporting the Government of Bangladesh to receive, **assist and protect newly arrived refugees** and support host communities.

POPULATION FIGURES

621,000* Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017
307,500 Estimated refugee population before the influx
928,500 Estimated total refugee population now

STAFFING

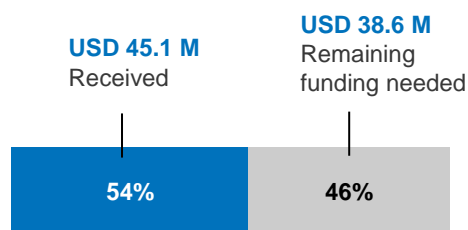
223 Staff now present in the operation compared to **49** prior to the crisis.
21 partners compared to **7** prior to the crisis.

* As reported by the Cox's Bazar Inter Sector Coordination Group

FUNDING (AS OF 21 NOVEMBER 2017)

USD 83.7 M

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response for 2017



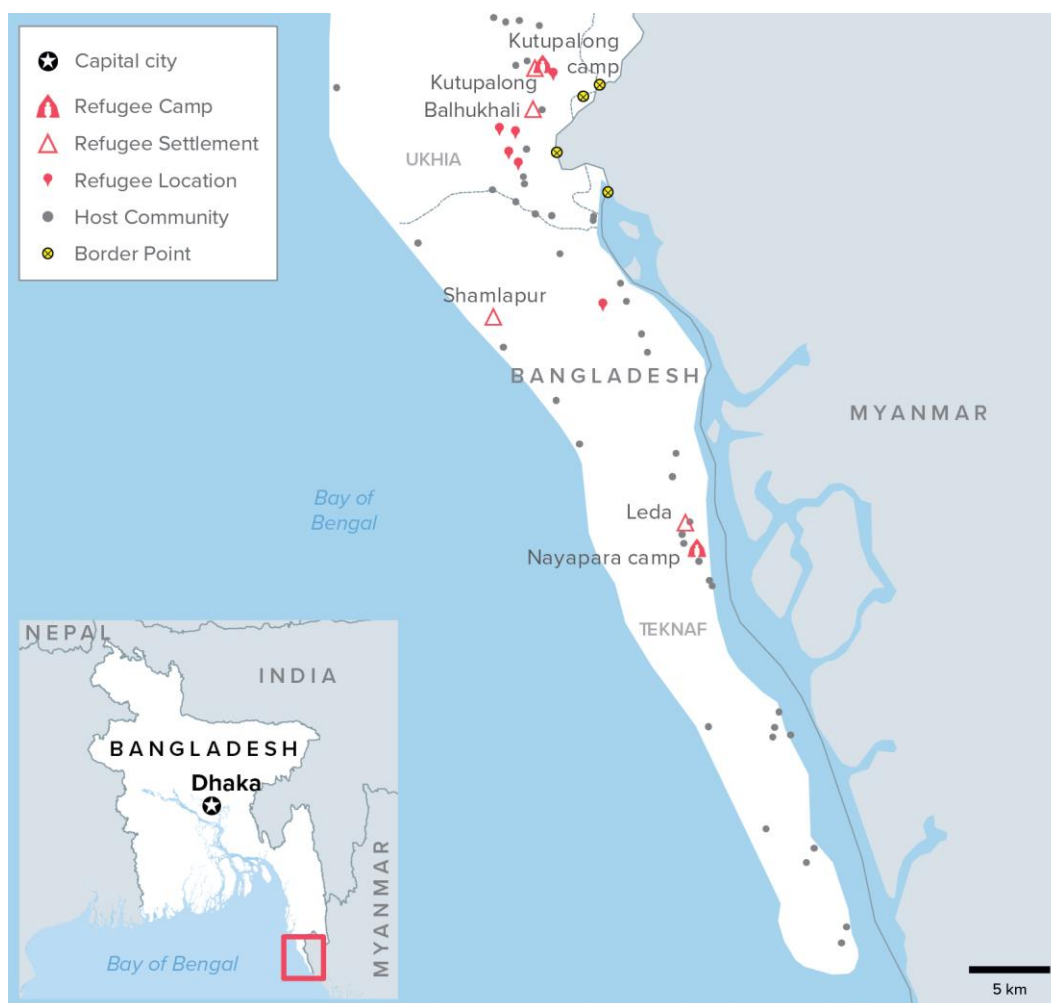
Rohingya refugees are resorting to increasingly desperate measures such as makeshift rafts to cross the Naf River to Bangladesh.
 Credit: UNHCR / Andrew McConnell

Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, **621,000 refugees have fled targeted violence and serious human rights violations** in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh, bringing the total number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to close to a million.

These new refugees have settled in the border areas in the South-east of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living. Weather conditions, the hilly terrain, and the lack of roads limit access to the refugees, especially those living in more remote areas of the spontaneous settlements.

As a steady flow of new arrivals continues to cross into Bangladesh in search of safety, UNHCR is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and to support host populations affected by this influx. UNHCR is working around the clock to develop sites in the extension area of Kutupalong, not least ensure that basic infrastructure is in place as refugees settle.



Update on achievements



PROTECTION

UNHCR conducts **regular protection monitoring visits to southern border points**, in particular Noapara, Sabrang, and Mogpara, where groups of refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar. UNHCR supports the Bangladeshi authorities so refugees can proceed immediately to safe locations, where minimum reception conditions are in place and life-saving assistance available. The absence of boats is pushing refugees stranded on the Myanmar side to build makeshift rafts made out of plastic and bamboo to cross the Naf River. Over the past ten days, UNHCR received reports of some 30 improvised rafts arriving from Myanmar, carrying more than 1,000 people. Using paddles made of bamboo and plastic debris, some of these rafts made it to Shah Porir Dwip in Bangladesh, a journey of about four hours.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR plans to **relocate 10,000 refugees currently stranded in remote and difficult to access areas close to the border in the Bandarban District**. This follows border monitoring visits, discussions with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), and consultations with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). After ascertaining the informed and voluntary nature of the relocations, UNHCR stepped in to support the RRRC to relocate approximately 10,000 refugees in four different locations – a logistically demanding operation given the remoteness and difficult to access communities. Refugees will be assisted and will settle in Zone RR of Kutupalong, where UNHCR has been given authorization to develop the site. This includes marking community service points and establishment of WASH facilities.
- In approximately six weeks, UNHCR and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) successfully covered all zones planned to be covered as part of the **Family Counting** exercise: Kutupalong expansion including Balukhali and Thangkhali, Jamtoli, Hakimpara, Chakmarkul, Unchiprang, Moyanarghona, Shamlapur, Leda and Nyapara. As of 19 November, **172,032 refugee families (745,135 individuals) were counted**. This number does not include the registered refugees (33,538 refugees) and refugees who settled in host communities. However, UNHCR is consulting the RRRC to include them in the exercise. The **Family Counting** team will continue to count new arrivals in all areas. Based on the family counting data and analysis, UNHCR's Protection screening team is interviewing individuals

determined as vulnerable to provide immediate assistance and/or refer them to appropriate services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- New arrivals continue to reach Bangladesh in search of safety and it is important to recognize that they are refugees and stateless. Humanitarian actors should support authorities so these latest refugee arrivals have immediate access to safe locations and access to life-saving assistance.



HEALTH

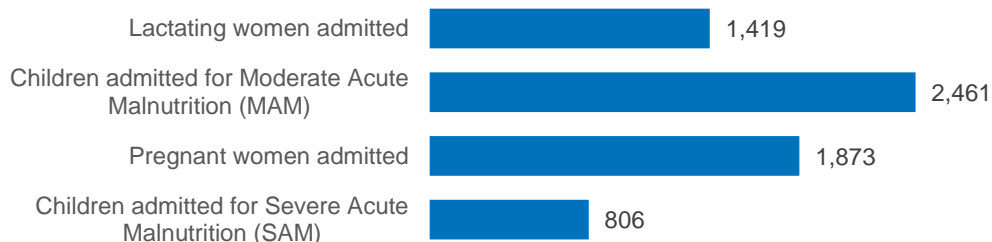
Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is supporting the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)'s **measles vaccination campaign** in response to the ongoing measles outbreak in refugee settlements. 611 cases were diagnosed to-date and the real number of cases is likely to be much higher. All children aged between six months and 15 years will receive the measles vaccination.
- UNHCR and partners Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Terre des Hommes have established seven nutrition outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centres to treat malnourished children in Nayapara, Kutupalong, Bagghona, and Charmakul/Karantoli. UNHCR is also participating in the **Nutrition Action Week**, which was launched by the State Minister for Health and Family Welfare. The campaign will run from 15 to 22 November and will aim to screen 130,000 children under five for malnutrition and provide Vitamin A supplements and deworming.
- **Over 120 community health workers from UNHCR's five health partners were trained** on community-based surveillance activities. This included collecting and reporting births and deaths in the community, identifying and referring malnourished children and people with diarrhoea, measles, and TB to health facilities, and educating pregnant women on the importance of seeking antenatal and postnatal care.
- **UNHCR continues to support Bangladesh's medical healthcare facilities in refugee-hosting areas** with logistical support, equipment (ambulances, hospital tents, medicines, and medical supplies), resources (for construction of health facilities) and training.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Support to national health services is still needed both to reinforce capacities in local hospitals due to the increase of consultations and admissions of refugees, as well as reinforce specific services (such as treatment for obstetric complications) closer to refugee settlements. For example, current cases of obstetric complications in Nayapara are referred to facilities 60 to 90 minutes away.

Number of persons admitted for malnutrition treatment

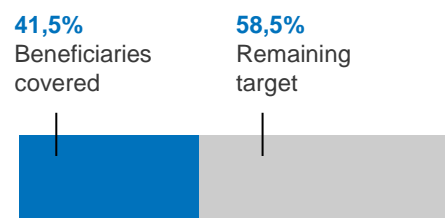


WATER AND SANITATION

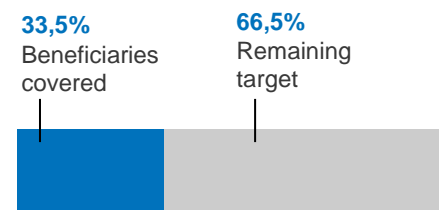
Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR remains heavily involved in WASH activities at the field level in both Kutupalong, including in the extension site, and Nayapara, providing technical guidance and support to improve compliance with WASH standards. UNHCR and WASH partners are also identifying a site for desludging treatment, the ramping up of hygiene promotion sessions and increased water quality testing.**
- **In Zone RR of Kutupalong, UNHCR was given authorization to develop the site to mark community services and set up WASH facilities for incoming refugees who will be relocated from Bandarban District.**
- **In Nayapara, UNHCR and partners are extending the pipeline from the existing water treatment plant to cover new areas where refugees are settling.** This is a temporary solution, pending the damming of the nearby canal to feed water tanks and provide water to an estimated 200 newly settled families. UNHCR and WASH partners also upgraded water and sanitation facilities in UNHCR's diarrhoea centre in Nayapara.

Refugees with access to water



Refugees with access to latrines



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Solid waste management remains a challenge. The risk of water contamination is high due to the proximity between latrines and water sources.

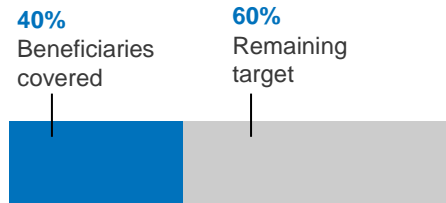


SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR’s partners BRAC and ADRA began assessing the shelters built by refugees and distributing shelter kits to refugee families in Kutupalong (Zones BB and CC) and Nayapara.** UNHCR and partners are building on the existing skills of refugees, providing training and technical guidance, and are distributing emergency shelter kits or upgraded shelter kits for refugees to upgrade and improve their shelters themselves.
- **UNHCR continue to provide core relief items to families** through a token system. So far, 20,122 families have received UNHCR’s core relief items kits.

Refugees who received core relief items



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Poor shelter standards create protection and security risks (fire and cyclone hazards, sexual and gender based violence) and have a negative environmental impact. Efforts need to focus on improving conditions in existing sites and making more land available.



Kutupalong extension site in Cox’s Bazar, south-east Bangladesh. (c) UNHCR / Roger Arnold



SITE COORDINATION AND SITE MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to support site management mechanisms put in place by the RRRC. In practice this is done via Camp-in-Charge entities that cover specific areas of the refugee settlements.
- **Building on the successful experience of Zone OO, UNHCR is developing a site plan for Zones UU and in Zone RR, where some 10,000 refugees plan to be relocated from the border areas.**
- Dry weather allowed for **progress on the road constructed by the Bangladesh Army, supported by UNHCR. This will connect Kutupalong extension site to the main road.** Army engineers estimate that the south and north parts will be connected within three weeks. **UNHCR is also supporting the construction of bridges** across the refugee settlements and a 35-meter bridge was completed in Kutupalong makeshift area. UNHCR assessed one sq.m2 area in Kutupalong makeshift and estimated that some 50 bridges were needed to connect refugee settlements and facilitate access and movements of persons. Kutupalong is approximately 10sqm2 in total.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to energy, notably cooking fuel, is a challenge. UNHCR is looking at options to mitigate the environmental impact and minimise associated protection risks.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR continues to support the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees. UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), in charge of leading the emergency refugee response in coordination with the district authorities. In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR cooperates with the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- UNHCR is working with international and national NGOs in Bangladesh and scaled up its partnership network to 21 partners, including nine national NGOs. As lead of the protection response for all refugees UNHCR coordinates closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through the various sector working groups of 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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