

BANGLADESH

05 – 18 July 2018

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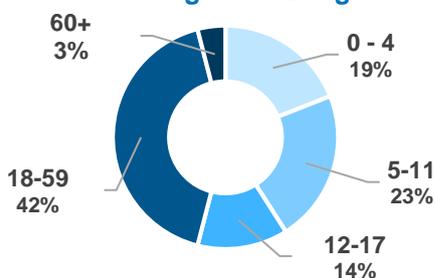
UNHCR and partners have now trained over 1,000 refugee volunteers who continue to support their communities. There are now 750 safety unit volunteers supporting emergency response, over 350 community outreach members who identify and help address protection risks in refugee sites, and 350 community health workers assisting public health clinics outreach to refugee communities.

UNHCR continues expanding its support to host communities and has now implemented 37 projects benefitting 78,000 Bangladeshi people. This includes the renovation of over 30 local schools and colleges, providing livelihood support to 2,000 low-income households, improving roads and infrastructure in a number of local villages, and providing life jackets to 1,000 local fishermen.

POPULATION FIGURES

889,284 Total number of refugees in Bangladesh
723,076 Estimated newly arrived since 25 August 2017

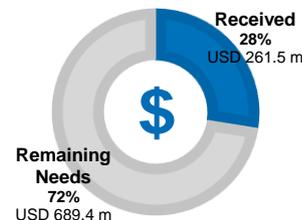
Age breakdown of refugees in Bangladesh



UNHCR FUNDING 2018



JRP FUNDING 2018



Monsoon response is advancing well, with many partner agencies across different settlements upgrading bridges, steps, drainage, and other works.

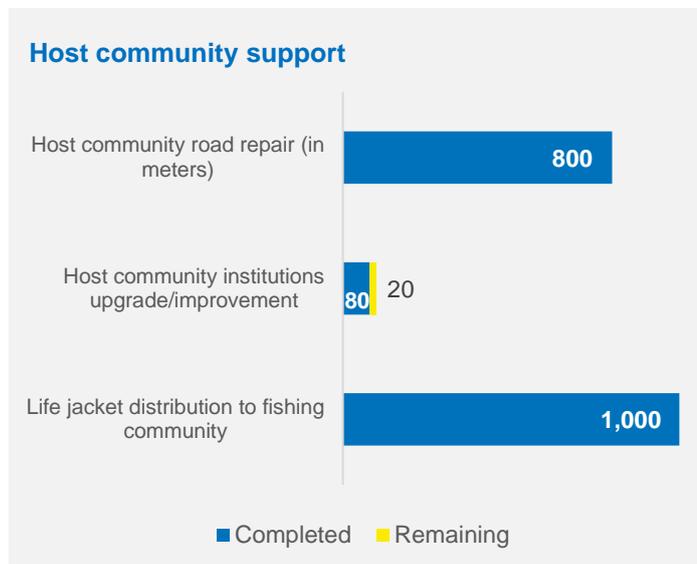
The ACF bridge in Kutupalong settlement is one of many examples that is rebuilt better and stronger. It crosses one of the key walking routes linking refugees with markets in the older part of the settlement to areas further extended west of the bridge. The old bridge, being dismantled on the right, has been under water in the last month during heavy rains.

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UNHCR continues expanding its support to host communities

UNHCR is currently implementing 37 projects that directly benefit 78,000 local Bangladeshi people affected by hosting refugees, including more than 18,000 primary and high school students from local communities near refugee settlements. Other activities UNHCR and partners are undertaking include:

- **Renovating over 30 local schools and colleges**, including Community Technology Access centers providing computer skills training for local and refugee youth. Over past years, these schools have provided space to UNHCR to store relief items and as temporary accommodation for local aid workers.
- **Distributing 1,000 life jackets to fishermen in Shamlapur**, where the majority of locals work as fisherman and which host around 10,000 refugees. Through community consultations, UNHCR identified life jackets as a priority, particularly for sailing in rough seas during the monsoon. UNHCR also installed a tube well and repaired several latrines at the fish landing station.
- **Providing physiotherapy services** in an existing public health clinic run by Bangladeshi NGO Gonoshasthaya Kendra.
- **Conducting infrastructure repair projects** for roads, community buildings and drainage systems in Mogpara, Nayapara, and Ulbunia.
- **Distributing livelihood support** to 2,000 low-income households. The project, which will be completed in October 2018, is implementing the Targeting Ultra Poor model by BRAC. The project selected five local Government Institutions which are close to refugee settlements. To date, 92 households have received a package that includes a cow with a cow shed, training on dairy production, cash support, and savings advice. Beneficiaries were selected by a community participatory process.
- **Improving roads and constructing a bridge** to support local communities in Teknaf who run small businesses near services established for newly arrived refugees. UNHCR also trucked water to communities during the 2018 dry spell.



A fisherman poses with his new life jacket. Photo: UNHCR/S. O'Brien

Refugee volunteers greatly supporting the monsoon response

“We are not working day and night for money or any reward, but to help our community, who are like family.” Mr. M.S. – Safety Unity Volunteer

Within the settlements, thousands of refugees are volunteering to serve their communities, including in community outreach, monsoon response, and health campaigns, these include:

Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV): SUVs are volunteers dedicated to monsoon preparedness, including by risk mapping and mitigation, awareness raising, community mobilisation, and emergency response. Currently in 15 camps and working in teams of 50, SUVs receive a range of lifesaving skills training from UNHCR, sister agencies, and partners. Recently, the Bangladesh Fire Service provided a 45-day training on firefighting, while other government departments,



SUV volunteer standing on the right in yellow jacket, with two other SUVs and a UNHCR staff. @UNHCR/Sazzadur Rahman Adnan

including the Civil Defence (FSCD), have provided training on first aid, protection (identification and referral of extremely vulnerable individuals), and familiarization with humanitarian principles. Twenty members of each unit have also received additional training from the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness program (CPP). Many female refugees also work on the SUV teams, which ensures a gender balance in the response. In addition, SUVs also work on community risk mapping and mitigation, awareness raising, and community mobilisation on the monsoon. They were trained to help movements in the camps to identified rally points in case of emergency, showing exit routes and safe structures.

Community Health Workers (CHW): CHWs play an important role assisting public health clinics in their outreach to the refugee community, focusing on health messaging, good health practices, and hygiene promotion. There are currently 352 of them.

Community Outreach Members (COMs): As part of its community-based protection work, UNHCR has partnered with Bangladesh NGOs BRAC and Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI) to develop a volunteer program centered on engaging the community in jointly identifying and addressing protection concerns since December 2017. COMs currently work in 10 camps using mobile technology to gather data on trending concerns, analyze needs and gaps, and make referrals to UNHCR and other service providers to ensure individual refugees receive support.

Volunteers go to the refugee sites each day, visiting refugees in their shelters and conducting sessions on emergency monsoon preparations, new and available services, and to address questions and concerns. During the reporting period, COMs conducted over 916 sessions for some 21,000 refugees on landslides, cyclone, heavy rain, and floods, in addition to sensitization on acute watery diarrhea and use of aqua tabs (water purification tablets).



352

Community Outreach Members (COMs)

750

Safety Unit Volunteers (SUVs)

350

Community Health Workers (CHWs)

Recently, COMs have been supporting the dissemination of information on the joint Bangladesh Government-UNHCR verification exercise. A dedicated community outreach effort involving over 5,000 people in four camps have led efforts to improve information shared with refugees on the exercise. UNHCR plans to expand community groups in each camp with a focus on women, men, and youth.



Refugee volunteers learning to use mobile data collection tool for assisting the community with information and referrals.
@UNHCR/K. Shum

Progress on refugee registration and verification

A joint **Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification exercise** for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh started at the end of June 2018 and more than 9000 have now been verified. Following verification, an official ID card is provided to refugees with smart anti-fraud features, which is critical for verifying the identity of refugees and ensuring protection in Bangladesh authorities. It also affirms the Bangladesh Government's commitment against forcible return

UNHCR has continued engaging with the community directly and through COMs to inform refugees that the card is linked to them having a status in Bangladesh and a proof of identity for the purpose of facilitating assistance. A range of materials have been disseminated and, based on initial questions raised by refugees, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will shortly be posted at information points, community centers and through social media and radio programs to provide additional information to refugees in their language.

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

Eleven months after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue flee to Bangladesh, but at a decreasing rate.

Since 1 January 2018:
11,992
have sought safety in Cox's Bazar

1-10 July 2018:
12 (est.)
individuals entered Bangladesh

Most arrive by boat
via the southern peninsula of Cox's Bazar, including Sabrang and surrounding areas.

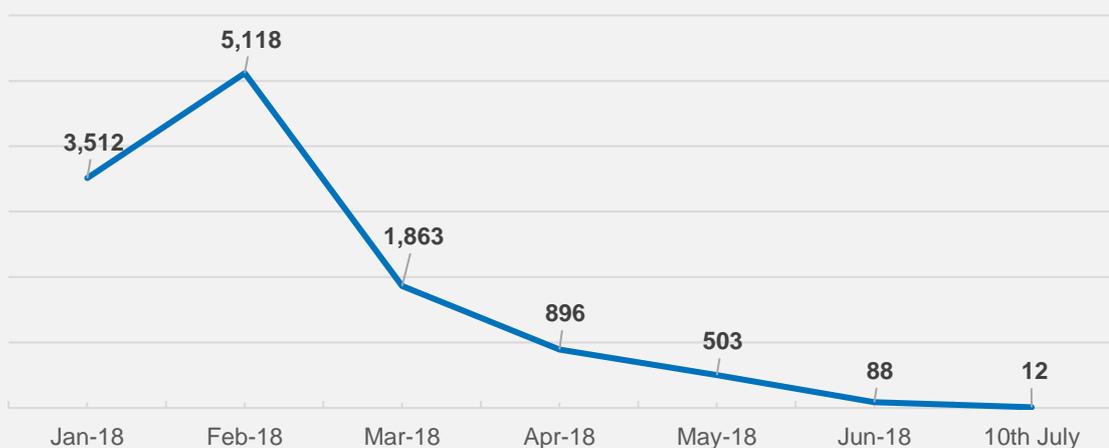


New arrivals continue to raise concerns about their security in Rakhine State. They also cite disagreement over a requirement by the Myanmar Government to accept the National Verification Card (NVC) in Myanmar.

Many arrivals reported that relatives remaining in Myanmar also plan to leave due to continued fears among the Rohingya community there.

The Border Guards of Bangladesh, UNHCR, and partners have maintained stand-by services for new arrivals in the peninsula, including medical staff and food.

New arrival trend by month | since 1 January 2018



Monsoon response continues to make progress

Fewer monsoon-related incidents were recorded in the first half of July as compared with June, including less rainfall. Compared to 131 landslides in June, only 63 have been recorded in July to date.

The drier weather assisted shelter construction and recovery activities stemming from damage suffered in settlements in June. The weather further ensured that more than 1,000 refugees were relocated to safer areas during the reporting period, such as the new flatland extension area in northern Kutupalong settlement. As of 18 July, some 21,000 refugees at high risk of landslides have been relocated.

Monsoon incidents (05 – 18 July 2018)

	 Landslide	 Wind-Storm
 # of incidents	28	10
 # of affected households	137	46
 # of individuals affected	620	219
 # of shelters damaged	101	46

UNHCR and partners' response to monsoon incidents



Relocation

1,096

Households in UNHCR managed areas



Post-disaster kits

877

provided to incident-hit households



Shelter

640

monsoon-hit households had shelters replaced



Tarpaulin

499

households supported with new tarpaulin



Pre-monsoon kits

72,520

distributed to help further anchor shelters¹

UN Special Envoy visits refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh

The United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, conducted her first official visit to Bangladesh from 14 to 16 July. She met with the highest level of the Government of Bangladesh, including the Prime Minister, and Foreign Secretary, as well as the diplomatic community and UN country team. In Kutupalong settlement, she met both new arrivals from Myanmar and refugees who arrived in the immediate aftermath of the August 2017 violence, and saw firsthand the environment in which UNHCR and other agencies work.

During the visit, the Special Envoy expressed support for the implementation of the 23 November 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh and Myanmar, and the 6 June 2018 MoU between the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR, and UNDP as important first steps. She stressed also

¹ 84,584 households were assisted with shelter upgrade kits before the monsoon started in June.

the importance of a conducive environment for the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return of the Rohingya people to their place of origin or choice.

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 other agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with UN agencies and other 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). In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. 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 works with a strong network of 26 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ACTED** (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **MDMR** (Ministry of Disaster Management) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation) | **WFP** (World Food Programme)

Donor Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018) and unrestricted funding to global operations:



With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, International Islamic Relief Organization Kuwait Finance House, OPEC Fund for International Development, Prosolidar-Onlus Foundation, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.

CONTACTS: Dalal Al Sharhan, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, sharhand@unhcr.org
 Mai Hosoi, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, hosoi@unhcr.org

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