

## OVERVIEW

Over 725,000 refugees fled from Myanmar since August 2017 and are hosted in Bangladesh. They undertook long and difficult journeys and border crossings. Many recount reports of extreme abuse, gender-based violence (GBV), family members killed, and separation along the way. Many arrived deeply distressed.

Close to 900,000 Rohingya refugee women, men, girls and boys are hosted in Cox's Bazar District, including 33,956 registered refugees who arrived in the 1990s (4%); and other unregistered refugees who had settled in host communities prior to August 2017.

Children make up 55% of the total refugee population; women and girls 52%. One in three refugee families have at least one easily identifiable protection vulnerability. Whilst the pace of arrivals has decreased, refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh, as of mid-September 2018.

## PROGRESS

The Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR launched a [joint verification exercise](#) for Rohingya refugees. The exercise began at the end of June 2018 and will help consolidate a unified database for the purposes of protection, identity management, documentation, provision of assistance, and population statistics.

UNHCR and partners support [case management](#) with rapid and comprehensive assessments, referrals, reunification of children with parents/relatives, and monitoring of foster care.

[63,111 children](#) have benefitted from psychosocial support through structures and [3,145](#) other children through mobile services activities and at child-friendly spaces (CFS). A total of 35 static CFS established under UNHCR funding are operational.

Since January 2018, [588 unaccompanied children](#) and [1,995 separated children](#) identified and assisted.

Daily protection monitoring undertaken in settlements since January by UNHCR/partners, covering more than 400,000 refugees. In addition, daily border monitoring missions by UNHCR teams to various border entry points continue. 2,700 refugees received legal consultations/ counselling. 13,233 new arrivals assisted in 2018.

14,875 cases in need of support, including 1,158 requiring urgent intervention, were identified during 15,485 home visits and referred to relevant services by 307 trained refugee volunteers (208 men, 99 women) as part of UNHCR's [community-based protection](#) programme.

About 260 refugee volunteers also known as Community Outreach Members (COMs) were trained on protection, humanitarian principles, Code of Conduct, and Gender-based Violence (GBV) (30% now specialised on GBV prevention, response and safe referral to appropriate services).

## KEY FIGURES

 **227,869** refugees (incl. 115,235 men and boys & 112,634 women and girls) engaged on key life-saving and protection issues and risks, including **161,808** refugees reached directly with key messages on monsoon preparedness.

 **63,111** girls and boys benefitted from psychosocial support.

 **307** trained refugees trained/working on community.

 **10** community centres with integrated GBV services.

 **3<sup>rd</sup> round** of settlement and protection profiles completed and published in May 2018.



Members of Rohingya youth volunteers met with the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (SGEY) Jayathma Wickramanayake (left) during her visit to Kutupalong refugee site in early August 2018. The Youth Group is one of three Community Groups, including Women and Men Groups, which take part in self-identified volunteer projects that benefit the refugee communities, especially refugees with specific needs. ©UNHCR/F. Al-Khateeb

Through community outreach, UNHCR engaged with refugees to strengthen awareness on key lifesaving and protection concerns and risks, including [trafficking and exploitation](#), [child marriage](#), [gender-based violence](#), [health \(diphtheria, cholera\)](#), [education](#), as well as [preparedness and response during emergency and extreme weather](#), reaching 227,869 refugees (50.6% male and 49.4% female) in the course of 10,798 awareness raising sessions.

Ten [community centres](#) with integrated GBV services, 10 safe spaces for women and girls, 2 integrated centres, 1 comprehensive women centre, and 5 counselling centres, are operational in 13 sites with UNHCR support.

1,471 calls from refugees through a UNHCR [Protection Hotline](#) were logged and referred for relevant follow-up.

In partnership with REACH, UNHCR released a third round of settlement and protection profiles, which provides data disaggregated per site (demographics, protection and safety concerns, interventions needed, and priority needs expressed by refugees).

[Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\)](#) response is integrated into complaint mechanisms. An awareness raising campaign and materials were developed and disseminated. UNHCR, partners and government staff were trained on PSEA. Sensitisation of refugees is ongoing.

UNHCR completed an analysis of the legal framework applicable to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

UNHCR also advocated successfully and obtained the agreement of the Government of Bangladesh to [register the births of all refugee children](#) born on the territory.

## MONSOON AND CYCLONE SEASON

For the monsoon and cyclone season, UNHCR has assigned established [Information Points](#) as lost family members meeting and tracing locations. In line with the Child Protection Sub-sector guidance, six CFS were designated as lost child and caregivers meeting points.

Sessions on emergency preparedness were undertaken with [key messages for the community](#) on extreme weather, disaster risks and mitigation measures, and protection risks. These were widely disseminated to refugees at their homes, in temporary learning centres, as well as in community and public spaces, reaching [161,808](#) persons.

UNHCR trained [first responders for emergencies](#) in the community, including 594 safety unit volunteers (452 male/142 female) on protection. Some 51 refugee volunteers were trained on psychological first aid (PFA).

UNHCR and Protection partners from the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) trained 229 [PERU](#) (Protection

Emergency Response Unit) team members on emergency response, including specialised gender-based violence and protection staff.

## COORDINATION AND PARTNERS

UNHCR leads the Protection Sector with an overall coordination role among protection actors, and liaises with the relevant government authorities on protection issues.

From the onset of the emergency, the Protection Working Group (PWG) met in Cox's Bazar on a regular basis to identify key issues related to protection and coordinate efforts to address them. The PWG [established an inter-agency protection focal point system to strengthen the response at camp level, referral pathways for individual cases, and prepared joint protection advocacy papers](#). The PWG works closely with the Child Protection and GBV Sub-sectors, as well as other sectors.

UNHCR's protection partners, working side-by-side UNHCR on delivering services, are: Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), BRAC, Danish Refugee Council, Handicap International, Save the Children, Solidarités International, Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI), Terre des Hommes (TDH); Research Training and Management International (RTMI); and Relief International, as well as other partners involved in the inter-agency response.



*Female refugee volunteers conducted outreach to Rohingya children on the danger of flood and landslide at Kutupalong refugee settlement in Ukhiya sub-district. ©UNHCR*

## 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 a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian 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). 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 a strong network of 23 partners, including:

**ACF** (Action Contre la Faim) | **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) | **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)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community** who are **often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with **safety unit volunteers** (SUVs) who support the emergency response, **community outreach members** who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, **community health workers** who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

## DONOR SUPPORT

The Government and the people of Bangladesh have shown extraordinary generosity in responding to the crisis. However, more support and solidarity is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response. Continued political efforts to work towards a solution to the situation remains vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (as part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

**UNHCR Bangladesh is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have provided unrestricted and broadly earmarked funds, as well as to donors who have contributed directly to the Operation in 2017 and 2018:**



UNHCR financial needs for 2018	
 <b>Protection</b>	26.7 m
 <b>Basic relief items</b>	5.6 m
 <b>Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene</b>	40.8 m
 <b>Shelter/infrastructure</b>	25.0 m
 <b>Energy and environment</b>	13.4 m
 <b>Education</b>	10.0 m
 <b>Community mobilization</b>	18.1 m
 <b>Health and nutrition</b>	34.5 m
 <b>Logistics</b>	11.0 m
 <b>Camp management</b>	35.3 m
 <b>Support costs</b>	18.4 m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238.8 m</b>

With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, and companies such as the Arab Gulf Fund, 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, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.

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